Hafa Adai!

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Man at edge of Banzaii cliff is unaccounted for. PAGE 2
Another tropical disturbance moves over Marianas. PAGE 3

Demand for workers rising

» Manpower agencies hiring construction, hotel workers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Manuel Bartolome, 48, thought he'd lose his mind thinking how he'd provide for himself and his family after losing his job a few months ago. But with new construction projects and expanding hotel operations buoyed by spikes in tourism arrivals to the CNMI, demand for workers has been on the rise.

"I'm relieved that I have another chance at employment. Hopefully my work papers will be processed and be back on the job soon," Bartolome, a father of four, told *Saipan Tribune*.

Bartolome was one of dozens of workers applying yesterday at Island Construction and Island Manpower in Chalan Kanoa, a private hiring agency that is in need of about a hundred workers, mainly for construction and hotel jobs.

Garry Malit, general manager at Island Manpower and Island Construction, said they are looking for construction workers such as masons, carpenters, electricians, tile settlers, painters, and plumbers.

He said they have been looking for over 100 workers for weeks now.

"There's at least 45 individuals whose work papers are now under process. Most of them will work in construction. We are looking for more," Malit said in an interview.

Malit said there seems to be a "shortage" of masons and carpenters on Saipan, as most of those in these job categories

See DEMAND on Page 4

Location: 09.80°N, 124.20°E - 002 km S 16° E of Carmen (Bohol)
Depth of Focus (Km): 033
Origin: TECTONIC
Magnitude: Ms 7.2
08:12 AM Oct. 15, 2013
MASBATE CITY
ILOILO CITY
Carmen, BOHOL
Epicenter at 7.2 magnitude October 15, 2013, Tuesday
Inigaran, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
CEBU CITY
DAVAO CITY
Expecting Damage: YES
Expecting Aftershocks: YES
Data sources:
- http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/507169/6-dead-power-down-as-7-2-quake-hits-bohol
- PHIVOLCS Earthquake Information chart issued on Oct 15, 2013 at 08:23 AM

Rescuers recover an unidentified man under the rubbles at a fish port in Pasil, Cebu, central Philippines Tuesday Oct. 15, 2013. AP

Death toll in Philippine quake jumps to 85

CEBU, Philippines (AP)—The death toll from a 7.2-magnitude earthquake that struck the central Philippine island of Bohol has risen to 85.

Police in Bohol have reported that 69 of the deaths came from the island, where the quake hit Tuesday morning near the town of Carmen.

The quake toppled buildings and historic churches in the area.

See related story on Page 15

Deadliest natural disasters in PH

MANILA, Philippines (Agence France-Presse)—A deadly earthquake in the central Philippines on Tuesday highlighted the Southeast Asian archipelago's vulnerability to natural disasters.

The Philippines is located along a typhoon belt and the so-called Ring of Fire, a vast Pacific Ocean region where many of Earth's earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur.

The following are the 10 deadliest natural disasters on record in the Philippines, based on government or United Nations figures:

1. A **tsunami** triggered by a magni-

See DEADLIEST on Page 4

GOT A NEWS TIP?
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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Do you understand what the federal government shutdown is about?
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INSIDE

NATION

Democratic and Republican leaders close in on a deal to end the government shutdown.
➤ PAGE 14

FOCUS

The lives of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya children are growing more hopeless.
➤ PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE

Readers, there is good news and bad news. Bridget Jones is back.
➤ PAGE 20

Local

Alepuyo considers running for attorney general post

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former deputy attorney general Viola Alepuyo is seriously considering running next year for the attorney general post, which is now an elective position.

When asked by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday about talks that she is eyeing the AG post, Alepuyo said that she is being urged by friends and family members to run for the position.

"I have sent out feelers consulting my family and giving it serious consideration," Alepuyo said, without elaborating.

Alepuyo

For the first time in CNMI history, voters will elect an attorney general during the election in November 2014.

The CNMI AG has always been a governor-appointed position. In 2012, voters ratified a legislative initiative to make the position an election one.

In December 2012, Alepuyo, as then deputy attorney general, recommended Joey P. San Nicolas to then governor Benigno R. Fitial to be the new attorney general after Edward T. Buckingham left the CNMI and subsequently resigned.

San Nicolas was subsequently nominated and confirmed by the Senate.

Alepuyo resigned from the Office of the Attorney General on April 19, 2013, to go back to law practice. The NMI Retirement Fund then retained her as part-time in-house counsel.

Man at edge of Banzaii cliff is unaccounted for

An old man, believed to be a Japanese tourist, was spotted on the edge of Banzaii Cliff in Marpi on Sunday night and has been unaccounted for since then.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Sgt. Tom Blas said yesterday that they classified the case as an unaccounted person.

Blas said they have not received any reports or complaints about a missing person or tourist.

Blas said a concerned citizen spotted a white car that dropped the man at Banzaii Cliff Sunday at about 6pm.

When the car left, the man walked to the edge of the cliffline and the witness did not see him anymore.

The witness took photo of the man at the cliffline.

Blas said they are investigating the case. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Municipal business license incentive program pushed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Committee on Commerce chair Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) has pre-filed a bill allowing municipalities or senatorial districts—through their local delegations—to provide a business license incentive program.

These incentives could include granting exemptions, refunds, rebates, or other forms of relief for new businesses for up to two years.

"This bill is an important part of those efforts to create jobs and an environment where businesses can succeed," Villagomez said in his House Bill 18-137.

He made it clear that the bill does not mandate but rather provide an additional economic tool that each senatorial district of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota could use should they decide to choose such an option.

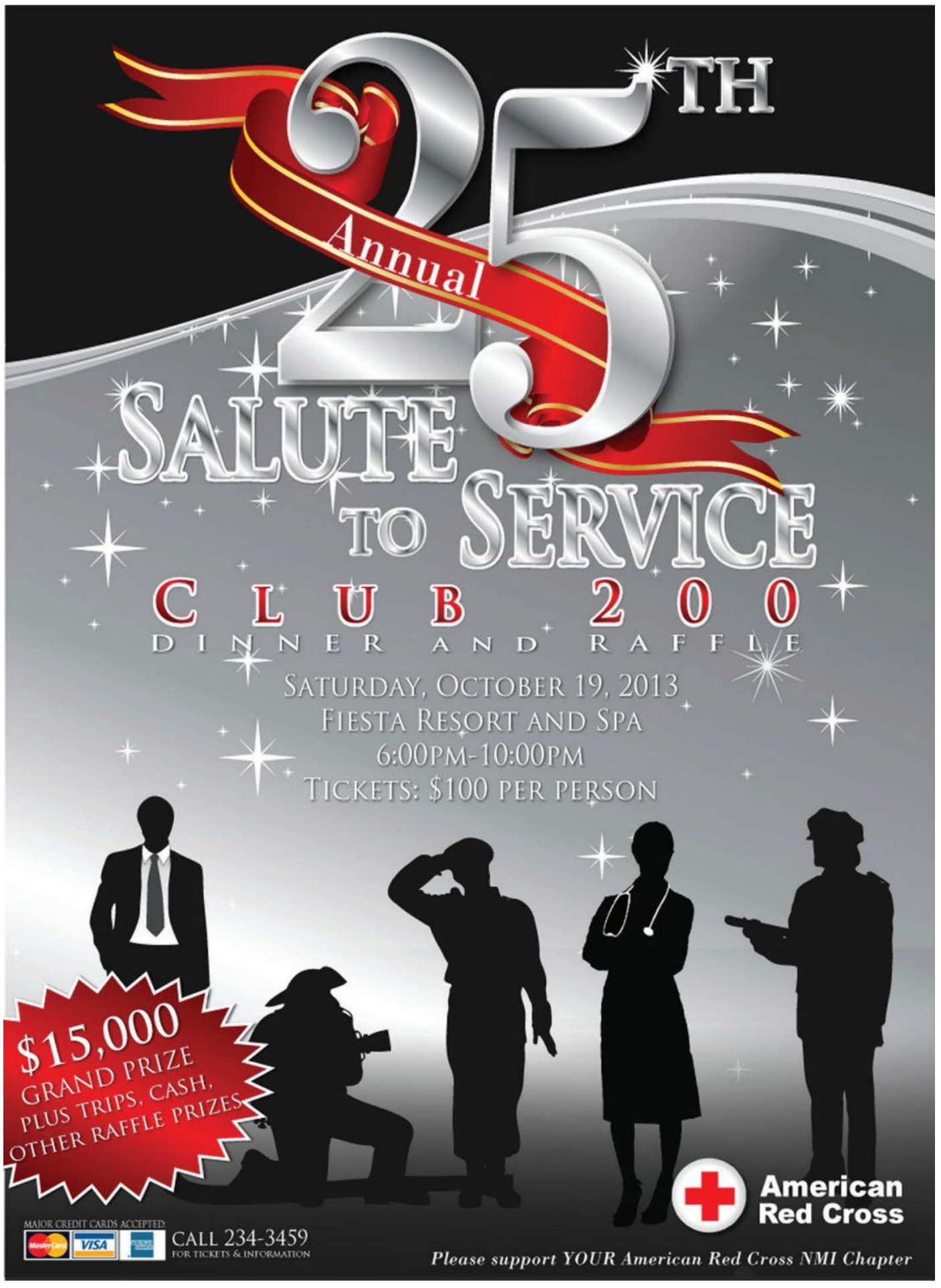
The bill will create a new section, Municipal Business License Incentive Program, to Commonwealth Code Title 4, Division 5, Business Regulation.

HB 18-137 also amends Local Law Act of 1983 by creating a new subsection to expressly authorize local delegations to enact legislation relating to municipal business license incentive programs for their respective senatorial districts.

Villagomez said nothing in the bill is intended to add to the cost of doing business.

The bill simply allows senatorial districts to establish local incentive programs that set fees at a local level, and set fees at a rate lower than what is currently mandated on a Commonwealth-wide basis.

"All fees collected as a result of this Act shall not be diverted from its current business unit or accounts within the CNMI general fund to a senatorial district," Villagomez said in his bill.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS PTA meeting on Thursday

Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend the Marianas High School PTA meeting on Thursday, Oct. 17, at 6pm in the Dolphin Theater. Become involved and learn how we as parents can help MHS and our students. Join the Marianas High School PTA and have a voice in your student's education! ***(PR)***

Kagman High School schedule

- Wednesday, Oct. 16: State Professional Development—no classes
- Thursday, Oct. 17: Kagman Schools Joint Progress Report—Half-day session. Elementary students will be released at 12pm. Junior high and high school students will be released at 12:30pm. Progress report pick up will be at the Kagman Elementary from 4pm to 6pm. If you miss it on Thursday, Kagman High representatives will be present at the GTC and Tanapag elementary campuses on Friday, Oct. 18, from 3:30pm to 4:30pm for any parents in the north side to pick up Kagman High student progress reports.
- Friday, Oct. 18: Full day (regular class session)

For more information, call KHS main office at 237-3840 or e-mail khsayuyu@kagmanhigh.org. ***(PR)***

KagES announcements

The Kagman Schools Joint 1st Quarter mid-progress night will be held on Thursday, Oct. 17, from 4pm to 6pm at the Kagman Elementary School Campus. It will be half-day for all KagES students (Grades K-5th); they will be released at 12pm. Contact 664-3913 or 237-3965 or email ruth.calvo@cnmipss.org for more information. ***(PR)***

SAES PTSA meeting set

San Antonio Elementary School will have its PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 22, starting at 6pm in the school cafeteria. ***(PR)***

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla today, Oct. 16, from 10am to 3:30pm. The public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated above. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

Another tropical disturbance moves over the Marianas

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—The National Weather Service in Tiyan has its eye on yet another tropical disturbance and it is advising island residents to be prepared for heavy rain and gusty winds in the next few days as it passes by the Marianas.

The system appears to be developing well northeast of both Guam and Saipan. But it is moving west-southwest toward the Marianas.

As of Tuesday afternoon, a weak center of circulation was located at 16 degrees north latitude and 149 east longitude. That is about 225 miles east-northeast of Saipan and 335 miles east-northeast of Guam.

The NWS says the region can expect 4 to 7 inches of rain through Thursday night and wind gusts up to 30 mph Wednesday and Thursday.

This disturbance is expected to become better-defined by Wednesday and move west-southwestward through the Marianas Wednesday night and Thursday.

The disturbance is expected to bring locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms to the Marianas Wednesday through Thursday night, and possibly into Friday.

Through Thursday night, 4 to 7 inches of rain is likely, with locally higher amounts possible.

This rainfall will likely produce local flooding at times and may result in mudslides.

In addition to heavy rain, south winds gusting to 30 mph or more are likely Wednesday night and Thursday after the center of the disturbance moves west of the islands.

If you live in a low-lying or flood-prone area, be prepared for the possibility of flooding on your property over the next couple of days.

Stay informed on this developing weather situation. Keep abreast of the latest forecasts and listen for any further statements or warnings from the National Weather Service and your local emergency management office.

High surf warning out

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management said that surf will be hazardous at 9 to 11 feet on west facing reefs and 8 to 10 feet along north facing reefs today, Wednesday, and remain hazardous into Thursday.

A high surf advisory is now in effect until 6am Friday along west and north facing reefs.

The public is being advised to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and west facing reefs as rip currents will be life threatening. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution, especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. ***(PR)***

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, special assistant for Homeland Security and Emergency Management Marvin Seman, Customs Services Division seaport branch manager Greg M. Sablan, and Customs director Joe Mafnas present samples of the $18,000 total worth of newly-purchased personal protective equipment such as tactical vests, tactical shoes, duty pants and tactical belts that the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management turned over to the Customs Services Division on Oct. 10, 2013.

Jorgensen supplements petition for fees, costs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

One of Betty Johnson's lawyers, Bruce Jorgensen, has filed in federal court a supplement to his petition for attorney's fees and costs.

Jorgensen mentioned that his cumulative base amount of attorney's fees is $1,454,380 and that his costs total $4,993.17.

Jorgensen did not specify the total amount of attorney's fees he wants or whether his $1.5 million in attorney's fees should be multiplied by 15.

He, however, mentioned that his award of attorney's fees is "via application of a lodestar analysis with a multiplier of 15."

Jorgensen said the $1.5 million is computed by 3,890.3 hours of professional services at a rate of $325 per hour, in a cumulative base amount of $1,264,347.50; and 567 hours of professional service provided by attorney Timothy R. Lord at a rate of $325 per hour, in a cumulative base amount of $184,275; and 32.9 hours of professional services at a rate of $175 per hour, in a cumulative base amount of $5,757.50.

The lawyer also mentioned his request for an award of attorney's fees for compensation of 4,490.2 hours of professional services, with application of a percentage-of-fund analysis, based on a percentage of 5 percent of the benefit conferred upon the class.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood did not rule on Johnson counsels' petition for attorneys' fees and costs during last month's final fairness hearing. Instead, she directed the counsels and the CNMI government to talk about the issue before Hawaii chief bankruptcy judge Robert Faris, who conducted the settlement discussions in Johnson's class action.

Tydingco-Gatewood said she could not understand Jorgensen's petition for billings.

In his first petition, Jorgensen was demanding either $18.6 million, $29.6 million, or $38.9 million.

Aside from Jorgensen, Johnson's other counsels are also requesting for attorneys' fees and costs. Bronster Hoshibata is seeking $17.5 million; Lord is asking for either $3.6 million or $5.9 million; and Stephen Woodruff, $1.01 million.

Guam markets itself at hotel investment confab

With the growth in Guam's tourism industry, there are growing opportunities in the hotel industry and those opportunities will be highlighted in a three-day conference this month in Hong Kong.

The Hotel Investment Conference Asia Pacific, or HICAP, is considered one of the most established conferences for the hotel investment and development community. The event gathers some of the region's biggest players and executives, who will network and explore opportunities, and exchange ideas.

Guam currently sees roughly 1.3 million international visitors annually, and those numbers are expected to grow exponentially. Visitor markets also continue to expand, resulting in many opportunities in the hotel industry.

The Guam Economic Development Authority, along with the Guam Visitors Bureau, and the Guam International Airport Authority will present, "Guam: America's and Asia's Best Kept Secret." The team will share information on the island, and invite investors to be part of the U.S. territory's growth.

This conference will be a great chance to market Guam as not just a prime visitor destination, but also a fantastic location for businesses and investments.

Discussions will also focus on "Hot Investment Markets," "Alternative Development Models," and "Emerging Markets."

The conference will be at the Intercontinental Hotel in Kowloon. It will run from Oct. 16 to 18. ***(GEDA)***

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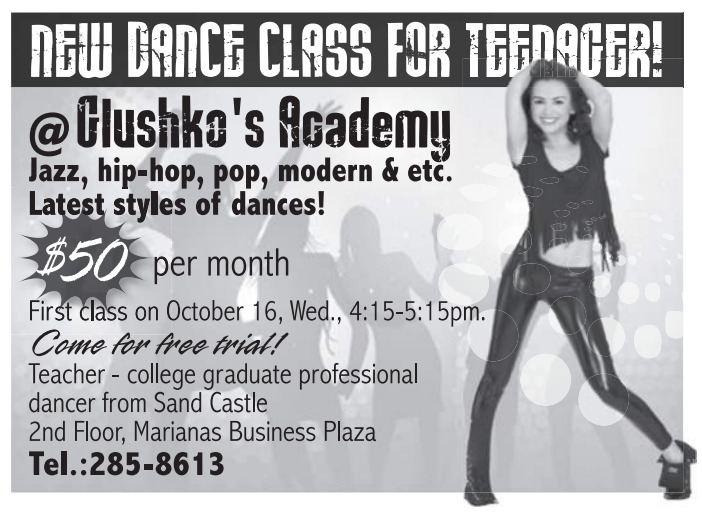
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Wholesale Orders & Personal Designs Available
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Tinian mayor seeks changes to local budget law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz wants to meet this week with the Tinian Legislative Delegation to work on an amended local budget law over what he describes as "several errors in judgment" in Tinian Local Ordinance 18-1.

Dela Cruz said that among the budget issues that need to be addressed are the inconsistencies in the Tinian Municipal Scholarship appropriation and administrative procedures, the need for funeral assistance as a community service, as well as the funding for private cleaning of restrooms in public parks.

The latter, according to the mayor, has resolved the long-standing problem of proper restroom maintenance for visitors.

The mayor has also requested fulltime employees "so we can place more of our people to work."

"Bottom line is we need to get together [this] week and hammer out an amended budget act that will meet the municipality's real needs… It is unfortunate that some of our municipal employees have suffered from this budget issue," the mayor said in his letter to Tinian Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Frank Borja (Ind-Tinian).

Borja could not be reached for comment as of press time yesterday.

Another Tinian delegation member said he is open to a meeting with the mayor, the delegation and others to discuss the issues with the newly-signed local budget act.

Tinian was on a partial shutdown from Oct. 1 to 8 over a lack of an approved local budget.

Fifteen Tinian municipal employees were furloughed and did not return to work until Oct. 9, after the late Oct. 8 afternoon signing of a $3.841-million local budget for fiscal year 2014.

But the Inos administration, through acting governor Jude Hofschneider at the time, had reservations about the local budget measure.

Hofschneider's greatest concern is an over $2 million discrepancy between fiscal year 2013's projected revenues and actual income collected.

"We are all aware of the hardships caused on Tinian when the Dynasty Hotel and Casino was shut down for an extended period of time last year. However, we cannot afford to simply turn a blind eye to the fact that Tinian's economy may face similar problems in 2014," he told the delegation and the council.

The Tinian mayor, in his letter to the Tinian Legislative Delegation chairman, said, "It seems we have hit our first bump in the road during your chairmanship. As with all marriages, it is over money."

But the mayor traced their working relationship since 1981.

"I have no doubt we will resolve the current issues quickly and amicably so that we can move on to the overriding issues of social and economic development for [Tinian]," Dela Cruz told Borja.

The Tinian mayor also wanted to clarify some issues.

He said when he met with the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission and the Tinian Legislative Delegation last year, he indicated that the projected revenues for 2013 "were too high."

"I recommended a more conservative approach. However, the TCGCC insisted on the higher revenue projection," he said.

'Legitimate excuses'

The mayor also said there were "some legitimate excuses" for the lack of coordination between the Casino Commission, the Delegation and his office this year.

He said the Tinian Municipal Treasurer received only over $1.579 million for fiscal year 2013. The projected revenues at the time were over $3 million.

Dela Cruz said of that amount received, only $770,136.10 came from taxes earned on casino winnings.

He said both the Council and the Delegation were consistently apprised of the "poor showings from Dynasty."

"It was impossible for the Commission to create a reliable revenue projection for [fiscal year] 2014 with the Dynasty showing $0.0 winnings for the final nine months of fiscal year 2013. By Sept. 1, we agreed that there was a good chance the Dynasty would pull out of its slump, as has proved true over the last two months," the mayor said.

Dela Cruz also said he asked the Gaming Commission to give him their best estimate on revenues so that they could submit a budget before the Sept. 30 deadline for passage and adoption.

"This is where the system broke down," the mayor told Borja.

The mayor said on Sept. 6, the Gaming Commission sent to the Municipal Treasurer a two-page memo with a revenue projection of $3.841 million for 2014 as recommended and concurred by Tinian Dynasty.

Dela Cruz said the mayor's office transmitted its proposed personnel and operations budget to the Delegation chairman on Sept. 11.

At the time, the Commission also took their draft budget directly to the Delegation, bypassing the mayor's office "again," Dela Cruz said.

"A few days later, the governor signed the CNMI budget bill, leaving two weeks for action on the Tinian municipal budget. I expected the delegation to arrive on Tinian to consult on the budget shortly after that. But it did not happen. So a budget was adopted that was not well coordinated," the Tinian mayor added.

Proposed regional shark plan could defeat CNMI's shark protection law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A committee advising the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council convenes this week in Honolulu to discuss, among other things, proposed shark management in the Marianas that includes "directed fishery for sharks" or "indirect catch," which some advocates say seems to negatively impact the CNMI's two-year-old law against possession, selling, trading or distributing shark fins.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee will meet in Honolulu, Hawaii from Oct. 16 to 18.

Former representative Diego Benavente, author of the shark protection bill that became CNMI Public Law 17-27, said yesterday that the CNMI government should voice out its concerns on the proposed shark management methods, specifically to "reduce shark biomass" as Wespac stated in a release last week.

"I hope that Hawaii, Guam and our other allies such as Palau and the Marshall Islands to come out and voice out their concerns about the proposals to manage sharks in the region," Benavente told Saipan Tribune.

The CNMI law prohibits possession, selling, offering for sale, trading, or distributing shark fins in the CNMI. It, however, allows catching of sharks for subsistence or non-commercial purposes.

Wespac said last week that fishermen in the Marianas archipelago -- which includes the CNMI and Guam -- have complained for more than a decade about "shark depredation," including taking of bait by sharks.

It also said one consideration for the depredation problem is to reduce the shark biomass either through a directed fishery for sharks or an indirect catch by pelagic longlining.

Benavente said while Wespac seems to be concerned about fishermen's issues concerning sharks right now, there seems to be disregard about shark protection and overall marine ecosystem now and for generations to come.

"I am also a fisherman. We also fish in areas where there are sharks but we still manage to catch fish. I just can't understand why Wespac would suggest that sharks need to be destroyed because of fishermen's concerns but what about their role in the ecosystem. Are they suggesting destroying ocean resources because of current concerns?" said Benavente, a former speaker and former lieutenant governor.

Wespac said recommendations from the Scientific and Statistical Committee will be considered by the Council from Oct. 16 to 18, 2013.

Angelo Villagomez, with The Pew Charitable Trusts in Washington, D.C., said management decisions should be based sound science, not hearsay.

"There isn't a scientific study in the tropical Pacific showing that shark populations are healthy and that shark fishing levels are sustainable. On the contrary, every study has shown declines," he said when sought for comment.

He said sharks are good for tourism.

"Senator Pete Reyes recognized this back in 2007 when he passed some of the first protections for sharks in the eagle ray protection law. Diego Benavente strengthened those protections in 2011. These laws are giving depleted shark populations a chance to recover, which will be good for the marine environment, but also for the increasing number of divers who expect to see sharks and other large predators when they spend thousands of dollars to visit Saipan," Villagomez said.

Villagomez also said a NOAA-funded study in Guam showed that the biomass of sharks was already four times lower than a similar area in Australia that was a known shark fishery.

He also said the three stock assessments done by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission show that oceanic whitetips, blue, and silky sharks are overfished and that overfishing is occurring. More information is available at http://www.wcpfc.int.

DEADLIEST

From Page 1

tude 7.9 earthquake devastates the **Moro Gulf** on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao on Aug. 16, 1976, killing between 5,000 and 8,000 people.

2. **Tropical Storm "Uring"** (international name: Thelma) unleashes flash floods on the central city of **Ormoc on Leyte** island on Nov. 15, 1991, killing more than 5,100.

3. **Typhoon "Pablo"** (international name: Bopha) smashes into the main southern island of **Mindanao** on Dec. 3, 2012. Rarely hit by cyclones, the region suffers about 1,900 people dead or missing.

4. A **7.8 magnitude earthquake** strikes the mountain resort of **Baguio City** and other areas of the northern Philippines on July 16, 1990, killing 1,621 people.

5. Typhoon **"Nitang"** (international name: Ike) hits the **central islands** on Aug. 31, 1984, killing 1,363 people.

6. **Taal volcano**, about 60 kilometers (30 miles) from Manila, erupts on **Jan. 30, 1911,** killing about 1,300 people living in nearby villages.

7. **Mayon volcano** in the far east of the country erupts on **Feb. 1, 1814,** burying the nearby town of Cagsawa with ash and rock and killing about 1,200 people.

8. An entire mountainside collapses on the village of **Guinsaugon** on the central island of Leyte on **Feb. 17, 2006**, killing 1,126.

9. Tropical Storm **"Sendong"** (international name: Washi) hits the **northern part of Mindanao** island on Dec. 16, 2011, killing at least 1,080 people.

10. Floods and landslides unleashed by **Typhoon Trix** kills 995 people in the **Bicol region** of the main island of Luzon on Oct. 16, 1952.

DEMAND

From Page 1

had already left the island when the economy tanked and no replacements were brought in.

"Now we have a lot of jobs available, mostly in construction and they include big companies and those in real estate," he said.

Perlito San Jose, 54, said he's applying at Island Manpower as a carpenter, which is currently in demand because of planned construction projects.

"I am happy to have a job soon," he said.

San Jose used to work for a small security agency where he was paid only $3.50 an hour.

The CNMI's current minimum wage is $5.55 an hour, which San Jose expects to receive as a carpenter.

Island Manpower prefers those with CW permits or those willing to be petitioned for a CW status, and welcomes U.S. workers. However, to date, only one U.S. worker has applied for a job, specifically as a security guard.

Ronald Nicolas, 43, is applying as a mason. Because there's only a few masons remaining on the island, Nicolas is expected to get the job.

"The construction company I used to work for closed. I am happy there's job opening for masons like me," the father of three said.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has set a cap of 14,000 non-immigrants under the transitional CNMI-only worker or CW program for fiscal year 2014 starting on Oct. 1.

This is a 6.66-percent cut from the current 15,000 cap.

Improving economy

Malit said an increased demand for workers in construction and hotel is a sure sign of an improving economy.

"Hopefully this improvement continues. I am personally happy to be able to help those who need jobs. In fact this Friday, some will already receive their salaries," he said.

Malit said Island Manpower also needs over 40 employees to work at hotels and households.

During yesterday's interview, there was also a group of women applying for these jobs.

Island Manpower currently needs 10 for hotel housekeeping, 20 commercial cleaners, five house workers, four waiters, and four cooks.

Elma Barrozo, 43, said she's applying at Island Manpower as a commercial cleaner.

"I really need this job. I am hopeful my application will be approved. I am happy for the opportunity that Island Manpower is giving to people like me who need jobs. I have four children and only my husband is working right now. I want to help him," the former garment factory worker said.

Barrozo was with two of her friends yesterday, applying for jobs.

Tourist arrivals to the CNMI reached 400,000 as of August this year, exceeding arrival levels last seen in 2006 when Japan Airlines was flying to the CNMI from the Japan market.

Japan and Korea remain as the Commonwealth's major tourism market.

The Marianas Visitors Authority, however, also reported that arrivals from China have now reached 102,810 persons while arrivals from Russia have reached 10,476 persons, both of which are record annual totals.

Hotel occupancy is also at 94.01 percent in August, the 12-member Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands said. This is an 11-percent increase compared to August last year.

Emerging trend

Other manpower agencies are also seeing an increased demand for workers.

Nenette Delos Santos, vice president and manager at Saint Trading Co. Inc., said they have been supplying workers to major hotels on Saipan and the demand is picking up once again.

"There's been a trend emerging. Hotels are now trying to source their employees from manpower agencies like us," Delos Santos said in an interview at the Saint Trading office in San Jose yesterday.

Saint Trading, she said, has a reliable list of clients that include Lau Lay Golf Resort, Aqua Resort Club, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Kanoa Resort, World Resort, Hafa Adai Beach Hotel, and Aquarius Hotel, along with LSG.

Delos Santos is optimistic about the direction of the CNMI economy and the increased need for workers.

The Inos administration is also optimistic about the economy.

The reopening of Coral Ocean Point, which is now undergoing renovation worth at least $4 million as part of an over $40 million planned total investments, is also a source of optimism.

Pregnant woman allegedly extorts from 2 guards

An administrative assistant of a security agency, who is eight and a half months pregnant, was arrested for allegedly extorting a total of $205 from two brothers in exchange for helping them get hired as security guards.

Dorsia Claire Atalig Palacios, 26, was arrested for theft by extortion late Monday afternoon shortly after the two brothers allegedly paid her $90 at a building in Garapan, where detectives monitored the meeting.

She was allowed to post a $1,000 unsecured bond.

Assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda said the original bail is $10,000 cash, but she recommended $1,000 cash due to Palacios' pregnancy. Assistant public defender Michael Sato served as counsel for Palacios.

Police detective Melissa Bauleong stated in her report that the G4S Branch manager called the police on Thursday to report that their administrative assistant, Palacios, is possibly extorting money from their two co-workers.

Bauleong said that in her interview on Friday, one of the alleged victim claimed that before he got hired as a security guard, he thought the company would not get him because he does not have any diploma or GED.

The alleged victim said his brother told him that Palacios could help him get the job. After the alleged victim went through the process of hiring, he started work on Oct. 1.

During his first week of work, the alleged victim said his brother told him he has to pay Palacios $130 because she had a hard time trying to get him in as a security guard.

On Oct. 7, Palacios allegedly went to their house and asked for the payment. As the alleged victim had no money at that time, his brother handed only $40 to Palacios.

Palacios allegedly took the money and told the alleged victim that he has to pay the balance when he gets his first paycheck.

During a separate interview with the other brother, he reportedly told police that he applied for G4S in August 2013. It was Palacios who interviewed him and he was hired on Sept. 1.

After that, Palacios allegedly called him at his house and told him that since she helped him get hired, he should also help her by paying her $75.

The alleged victim said that after he paid Palacios on Sept. 21, he told her to help his brother too, but Palacios allegedly said it would cost $130 because his brother has no diploma.

Six days after the other brother was hired on Oct. 1, Palacios went to their house and asked for payment. When they told her that they thought the payment will be on the first paycheck, Palacios stated she needs the money now. The alleged victim gave her $40 and promised that the remaining $90 will be paid on payday.

On Oct. 14, detectives sought an eavesdropping search warrant from Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho for the brothers to record Palacios' alleged extortion activities.

Palacios allegedly admitted that she helped the brothers get hired and that they paid her money. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

DELTA DONATION
Joeten Memorial Golf Classic organizing committee chair Somia Quan, third right, receives in-kind donations valued at over $2,500 from Delta Airlines sales representative Chris Conception, second right, in support of the upcoming fundraiser golf tournament slated for Nov. 9, 2013, at the Saipan Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort. Also in the photo are committee members Matt Deets, far left, and Shirley Sablan, far right.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Crisostomo request to appoint Guam professor denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has denied attorney Janet H. King's motion to appoint a University of Guam political science professor to assist murder suspect Joseph A. Crisostomo in analyzing the impact of media coverage of the case to see if there is a need to change the trial venue.

In an order Friday, Camacho said it is unclear what Crisostomo is asking the court as he is free to pursue any line of research and trial preparation he desires.

"Motions submitted without an explanation of the procedural posture unduly burden both the court and the nonmoving party and will not be tolerated," said the judge in denying the motion without prejudice or finality.

In Crisostomo's motion, King asked the court to grant the appointment of professor John Stoil, to conduct a poll on pretrial publicity.

To support the motion, King attached hundreds of pages of newspaper articles, including Crisostomo's long history of criminal cases, blogs, photos, and news articles from the Internet and You Tube. In total, she filed 175 exhibits to support the motion.

King said these articles and other media sources more fully show that the media coverage of the case "was pervasive and prejudicial."

In his order, Camacho said that King asks the court to appoint an expert who has agreed to assist the defendant free of charge.

Camacho said King cites no procedural rule to support the request, and the court will neither exercise its authority without procedural justification, nor guess the procedural rule underlying the request.

Under the Indigent Representation Rules, the judge noted, the court may authorize payments for expert services, but there is no reason for the court to otherwise be involved in the defendant's trial preparation.

"Rule 706 of the Commonwealth Rules of Evidence provides a procedure for the court to follow when appointing an expert of its own selection or an expert agreed upon by the parties, neither of which is suggested here," Camacho said.

Crisostomo, 40, is facing charges of first degree murder, kidnapping and other charges, over the killing of bartender Emerita Romero, whose body was found by FBI agents at the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque on Feb. 7, 2012.

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OFFICE SPACE FOR NMHC IN ROTA

OPENING DATE OF BID: Friday, October 25, 2013
Time: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors through its Chairwoman of the Board, are soliciting competitive sealed bids from interested owners of commercial buildings in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up the Scope of Work at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Field Office in Songsong Village, Rota, during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays. Inquiries may be directed to Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager, at telephone nos. 670.234-6866/7689 during regular business hours or Barrie C. Toves, Rota Field Office Representative, at 670.532-9410.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal in the best interest of the NMHC and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Merced (Marcie) M. Tomokane
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-14-002

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TYPHOON RECOVERY MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials for CUC Power Division, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $80.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-14-002, Supply & Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 14, 2013** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **October 28, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alfredo Palattao, CUC Power Division Engineer via email alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org & Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles.warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

'The CNMI gave too much for US citizenship, federal benefits'

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Northern Marianas College teacher Guadalupe "Lupe" Camacho Borja-Robinson gave a sobering assessment of how the Covenant with the U.S. has resulted in the CNMI government having relatively no say in the military's current plan to use Pagan as a live-fire training site.

In her presentation for the NMI Humanities Council's lecture series, Borja-Robinson said the CNMI's covenant with the U.S. ratified by a plebiscite in 1975 ceded too much control of the islands to the federal government.

"The present unilateral actions of the United States military on Pagan, Saipan, and other Northern Islands clearly show that the United States has sovereignty in the Northern Marianas. I believe it is time to re-examine the Covenant that established commonwealth status, and determine to what extent the U.S. can exercise its sovereignty in our islands. I believe the Northern Marianas may have given up too much to the U.S. in those early political status talks," she said in her presentation.

Titled "The Early Political Status Talks on Saipan in the Early 1970's Leading to the Plebiscite Vote on U.S. Commonwealth Status of the Northern Mariana Islands: A Personal Perspective," Borja-Robinson's talk was the initial offering of the NMI Humanities Council's three-part lecture series. It was held on Oct. 8 at Room D-1 of the college and was attended by 30 or so people.

In her lecture, Borja Robinson recounted that right from the get-go the Marianas Political Status Commission wanted commonwealth status when status talks formally began in 1972 on Saipan.

"For many of those Marianas commission members and other island leaders, commonwealth status offered a better economy than remaining part of the Trust Territory. It was mainly the Carolinian community on Saipan [that] opposed commonwealth; they favored a unified Micronesia."

Borja-Robinson noted that under the Naval Technical Training administration from 1952 to 1962, Saipan saw a fairly good economy with many jobs and the minimum wage was at 75 cents an hour. However, that drastically fell to 16 cents an hour under the Trust Territory government. So for many island leaders, she said, commonwealth status offered improved lives with more jobs and a higher minimum wage.

While the Marianas status group included the brightest minds the islands had to offer, she still sees the meeting as "'city folks negotiating with island leaders who were smart, but many of whom did not have the formal education that the American negotiators had because there were no educational opportunities for local people before the war under the Japanese administration."

Edward Pangelinan, who was the first Chamorro attorney in the Northern Marianas, chaired the Marianas status group.

Borja-Robinson said the negotiating table tilted unfairly to the United States' side in 1975 resulted in the islands getting an unfair shake in exercising a measure of self-government.

"In light of recent military activities on Pagan, the U.S. Air Force's plan to build a divert airfield on Saipan, and other military actions, I believe we need to re-examine the Covenant and determine to what extent the U.S. military has sovereignty in the Northern Marianas. The negotiations that led to the Covenant vote in 1975 did not include military activities on Pagan, a divert airfield near the Saipan airport, and related issues."

Borja-Robinson said she is worried that the militarization of not only Pagan and Tinian but the rest of the Marianas would put the region squarely on the crosshairs of the enemies of the United States, especially in the event of a nuclear war.

"I am concerned that in the event of a nuclear attack from North Korea or another country in Asia, those of us in the Northern Marianas and Guam will be the first targets due to our islands being part of the 'Marianas hub' of the U.S. Pacific Command. I hope that this paper will encourage others to study further the present unilateral actions of the U.S. military in the Northern Marianas and report their findings."

Borja-Robinson has a bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Hawaii (Hilo and Honolulu) and a master's in Adult and Continuing Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

She has been an educator on Saipan for over 20 years and a journalist for five years in Guam and on Saipan.

The second part of lecture series was held last night, with former representative William Torres, Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho, and architect Herman B. Camacho presenting "Saipan and Northern Islands Leadership Kiosku Project."

MARK RABAGO

Northern Marianas College teacher Guadalupe "Lupe" Camacho Borja-Robinson was the presenter during the initial offering of the NMI Humanities Council's three-part lecture series last Oct. 8 at Room D-1 of the college.

Red Cross to erect warning signs at eight sites

MARK RABAGO

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive John Hirsh served as one of the guest speakers in yesterday's Rotary Club of Saipan weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. Photo shows Hirsh talking about the humanitarian group's plan to install 45 safety warning signs (foreground) on eight sites on Saipan. Looking on is Rotary Club vice president Richard Cody.

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter will be erecting safety warning signs on eight sites along Saipan's coast as part of the humanitarian organization's promise to the family of a Japanese diver who died at The Grotto eight years ago.

According to ARC-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh, a total of 45 safety warnings signs will be erected with the help of the Boating Safety Division in eight locations: Obyan, Laulau, Forbidden Island, Wing Beach, Grotto, Micro Beach, and two other sites.

Hirsh made the announcement during yesterday's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, where he and ARC-NMI Chapter territory service delivery manager Kennedy Benjamin served as guest speakers.

It will be recalled that the family of the late Megumi Morita of Kobe, Japan, donated $10,000 to the ARC-NMI Chapter last April. Morita died in a diving accident at The Grotto in 2005. She was only 25.

"She died in a diving accident eight years ago but if you remember earlier this year someone died in Laulau during a diving accident and someone also drowned before in Obyan who went over the reef snorkeling and never came back," said Hirsh.

He said it's about time to warn residents and tourists alike that certain beach sites are not safe.

The 45 signs that will be up in eight locations will have warnings like "Rip currents, watch out," "Keep off, slippery rocks," and "High surf, can cause drowning and injury" and associated symbols emblazoned on them.

The "Keep off" sign is for Forbidden Island since it's very dangerous there with the slippery rocks. The "Rip currents" sign is one for Sugar Dock "because there are very, very strong rip currents out there since that's where the reef opens up and that's why the surf is always strong behind Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel," said Hirsh.

He said the signs will be in English but the symbols themselves are universally recognizable.

"They tell someone who is Russian, Korean, Chinese, or Japanese that they better ask what these signs say or ask someone to translate."

It is the group's hope that the 45 water safety signs will be erected by December 2013 or earlier. "Hope by the end of the year the signs will be up. Soon as we are done with our Club 200 fundraiser we will be able to focus our resources in putting up the signs," he said.

Aside from the safety warning signs, the ARC-NMI Chapter will also conduct public awareness campaigns on water safety. Hirsh said the campaigns will initially be seen on the Marianas Visitors Authority website but their organization will also use print media to disseminate the information.

Unlike the safety warning signs, public awareness campaigns in English will be translated to Russian, Chinese, Korean, and Japanese. ***(Mark Rabago)***

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OWWA has 148 new members on Tinian

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam extended its Overseas Workers Welfare Administration mobile outreach services to Tinian last Thursday, resulting in 148 new members of the program.

OWWA representative Julie Fabian and United Filipino Organization past president Oliva Yana flew to the island last Oct. 10 and immediately went to work accepting OWWA membership and renewal applications

"I am very happy that the OWWA administration responded favorably to our request. I thank Ms. Fabian for spending a day here on Tinian to serve our fellow Filipinos," said United Filipinos Association in Tinian president Rodney Cabarles.

Cabarles was instrumental in making the one-day OWWA mobile outreach on Tinian a reality after the UniFil president wrote to OWWA administrator Carmelita S. Dimzon, through the Philippine Consulate General in Guam, to include Tinian as part of the OWWA representative's itinerary during her scheduled four-day visit to Saipan.

CONTRIBITED PHOTO

JC Café was the site of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration mobile outreach service last Thursday. Posing from left are United Filipino Association on Tinian advisers Paul Madriaga and Cora Cepeda, JC Café manager Lot Bunao, Unifil president Rodney Cabarles, UFO past president Olive Yana, OWWA representative Julie Fabian, UniFil vice president Susan Cruz, and UniFil secretary Liz Hofschneider.

The OWWA outreach on Tinian was held at JC Café, which Cabarles said was a perfect location for the event because of the restaurant's accessibility.

"With the support of JC Café manager Lot Bunao and her staff, the activity turned out to be well organized and successful. Thank you also to Ms. Susan Cruz for providing the meals to our OWWA representative Ms. Julie Fabian and company," he said.

For Tinian Marianas Lions Club president and UniFil secretary Liz Hofschneider, the OWWA outreach has resulted in many Filipinos on Tinian now able to breathe a collective sigh of relief because they know they are now covered by the Philippine government's OWWA benefits.

"We also would like to recognize the help of Mr. Jim Casauran and all others who helped disseminate the information about this OWWA visit. We also appreciate the services of UniFil officers who assisted in the event, the Philippine Consulate General in Guam, Ms. Olive Yana, Ms. Frances Esguerra, and JC Café`staff," said Cabarles. ***(Mark Rabago)***

SDA Clinic bids adieu to Dr. Sauget

MARK RABAGO

Dr. Earl Sablan Sauget, left, presents SDA Clinic director Ken Pierson with a painting by local artist Greg Elliott as a token of remembrance to the clinic and community he served the past 17 years.

The Seventh Day Adventist Clinic on Friday said goodbye to Dr. Earl Sablan Sauget, who the last 17 years had been coming over from his practice in Guam to provide orthodontic care to the people of Saipan.

Clinic director Kenneth D. Pierson and SDA Clinic staff honored Sauget with a simple sendoff party last Friday at the clinic's Quartermaster Road location.

Sauget, who traces his roots to Saipan where his grandfather was born in the 1800s, also received a plaque of recognition from SDA Clinic.

"Your commitment to excellence and dedication to continuing the legacy of orthodontic care of Dr. John van der Pyle and willingness to give up your time and expertise for the last 17 years are greatly appreciated and admired," Pierson read from the plaque.

Sauget, for his part, gave the SDA Clinic a painting by local artist Greg Eliott that depicted a sailboat. He said he picked the painting of a sailboat because it best describes the experience van der Pyle and another orthodontist who served Saipan, Dr. Michael Lee, had on the island.

"Today I went DFS to try and find something to give in my appreciation for all the time you have given me and my staff. I just walked around the store and all of a sudden there was it…Dr. van der Pyle and Dr. Fisher were very fond of sailing and Dr. Fisher had a catamaran. I want you guys to have this and I think this kind of represents the history of orthodontics here on Saipan."

Aside from Saipan, Sauget and his team also provided orthodontic care in Palau.

"What you've been able to provide in the last 17 years people here wouldn't have been able to have anywhere else. They would have to fly to Guam to receive orthodontic care and so by you being willing and able to sacrifice your time to come out here and made the treatment here possible is just admirable and we appreciate it a lot," said Pierson.

Sauget started serving Saipan patients in 1997 following the retirement of his predecessor, van der Pyle, who himself served the island for 23 years.

SDA Clinic has two branches on Saipan. The main office along Quartermaster Road is open from Monday to Thursday, 7am-6pm, and Friday, 7am-1pm. Its Kagman office, meanwhile, is open on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 1pm to 5pm.

It offers a slew of dental services, including cosmetic and general dentistry, pediatric dentistry, orthodontics, and implant dentistry.

For more information and for appointments, call 234-6323 and 287-6323 or email them at info@saipansdaclinic.com. ***(Mark Rabago)***

CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Storage and Distribution Supervisor
Associate's Degree with at least 3 years of distribution and warehousing supervisory experience. Knowledge of household goods handling and airfreight and oceanfreight operations is required. Proficiency in Warehouse management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Shipping Supervisor
Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of shipping, receiving and warehousing supervisory experience is required. Proficiency in shipping operations, shipping documentation & cargo management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, 49 CFR & IMDG Code is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines. Knowledge of bill of ladings, scheduling and planning inbound and outbound shipments is a must.

Transportation Supervisor
Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of logistics and trucking operations supervisory experience is required. Must be knowledgeable in transportation and safety regulations and proficient in various logistic software. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Freight Forwarding Supervisor
Associate's Degree with at least 3 years experience in freight forwarding operations and 1-year experience in transportation security and communication related activities. Knowledge of TSA security regulations and proficiency in TSA Known Shipper Management System are a must. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation and IATA related trainings. Proficiency in airfreight documentation, freight forwarding software, FEDEX systems and operations are a must. Must be familiar with airline operations and regulations.

Sales Officer
Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required as well as an extensive knowledge and experience in supply chain and freight brokerage. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Can work flexible hours. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Proficiency in freight forwarding, shipping and household goods operations are a must. Must be familiar with freight forwarding software.

Cargo and Freight Agent (5)
Associate's Degree with a minimum of 2 years experience in a logistics, freight brokerage or warehouse services business. Must know how to operate a forklift with certification. Must be able to do strenuous work with some lifting and carrying of small items on the job. Licensed to drive 4x6 wheel closed vans and must have obtained training or certification in handling hazardous materials, Occupational Safety, Hazardous Waste Operation and IAC CCSF authorized screener. Must be proficient in MS Office and Oracle-based programs and available to work on evenings and weekend hours.

Specialized Truck Driver (6)
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Must have at least 3 years experience in hauling petroleum products with the corresponding SMITHS & STOPS training certification, carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

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High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Experience in carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Shipping and Receiving Clerk (6)
Associate's Degree and at least 2 years work related experience. Must be proficient in MS Office programs as well as other planning and logistics software. Knowledge of supply chain, shipping operations and procedures, document preparation and recordkeeping is required. Should possess good interpersonal and verbal communication skills.

Truck Mechanic
Vocational or High School Graduate. Must be able to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul trucks, or maintain and repair any type of engines. Minimum of two (2) year work experience is required on these areas: lubrication, repairs and servicing, use of machine tools, welding and flame cutting, engine elements, gears, brakes, transmission, exhausts, etc. Proficiency in critical devices for fuel tank trucks is a must.

Automotive Body Repairer
Formal Auto Body Training in a Vocational School is required as well as a minimum of one-year experience in repairing and refinishing automotive vehicle bodies' vehicle frames. Proficiency in automotive body painting is required.

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A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume / application to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than October 25, 2013.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Banana TV visits tropical Saipan

Japanese comedic duo Banana Man, composed of Yuki Himura and Osamu Shirata, arrived on Saipan last week to film a video introducing the culture and entertainment of the Northern Mariana Islands for Banana TV, a free Internet video series.

The series has a circulation of over 4-million households and targets men and women interested in travel and entertainment. The series will air 30 times and is expected to bring the Northern Marianas an estimated $900,000 in advertising exposure.

While in the Northern Marianas, the series filmed at Saipan International Airport, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, around downtown Garapan, at I Love Saipan store, on an ATV and standup paddle tour with Marianas Trekking, face painting, while fishing, and at a barbecue on the beach.

The show also made a live broadcast from Saipan on Friday night on TBS radio, covering the Tokyo, Japan area.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Yuki Himura, left, and Osamu Shitara, right, of the Japanese comedic duo Banana Man filmed on Saipan in October 2013.

"One of the highlights of Banana TV's visit was their meeting with Saipan Mayor Donald Flores on Saturday [Oct. 12]," said Marianas Visitors Authority's Bruce Bateman. "The mayor's personal welcome is a fine example the whole community can follow in making visitors feel at home whether in Saipan, Tinian, or Rota."

The video series has also featured Guam, Hawaii, Okinawa, Thailand, Los Angeles and Paris. Pacific Eagle provided ground handling for the group. ***(MVA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Yuki Himura, seated left, and Osamu Shitara, seated right, of the Japanese comedic duo Banana Man enjoy lunch at Café at the Park while filming on Saipan in October 2013.

NMC to host Tinian info session on Oct. 19

Individuals interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend a free information session hosted by the Northern Marianas College on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2013, on Tinian.

The information session, which is open to all prospective students and community members, will be an ongoing session so participants can stop by any time between 10am and 7pm. The event will take place in the lobby of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

At the information session, participants will be able to speak to NMC representatives who will be on hand to provide information and answer questions regarding the college's different degree programs and other educational programs, as well as other services for students.

Those who attend the information session will also qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming spring 2014 semester. This represents a savings of about $75.

The Northern Marianas College offers several degree programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management.

For more information, contact NMC Tinian site coordinator Maria Aguon at 433-0649 or email maria.aguon@marianas.edu or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 16, 2005

SHEFA posts 306 scholars in 2004, 2005

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance under the Office of the Mayor of Saipan recorded 306 scholarships and financial assistance awarded to CNMI students in Fall 2004 and Spring 2005. In its executive summary report released late last month, 186 students qualified for the program in Fall 2004 and 120 in Spring 2005. A total of $756,500 was provided to students during these two academic terms. At least $444,400 in financial assistance was given to students during Fall 2004 while $312,100 was given out in Spring 2005. The report said the per-pupil revenue for the Fall on-island recipients amounted to $2,009; the amount was at $2,777 for the fall off-island awardees. The Spring per pupil revenue was recorded at $2,127 for on-island awardees and $3,048 for off-island recipients.

Taiwanese TV show to shoot on Saipan

A Taiwanese television producer and a media executive flew to Saipan this week for onsite inspection in preparation for a three-day filming here later this month. Ed Ho, TTV producer, and James Lin, managing director of IDSON Communication Co. Ltd., said they found Saipan to be "an ideal place" for filming for a prime-time TV game show, which they translated as "Happy Go, Go." "Taiwanese people really love the ocean, the sea, the beach. They would enjoy watching the show. I'm sure they'd discover Saipan as a better destination," said Lin.

October 16, 2006

Internet gambling bill faces federal roadblock

A new federal law is expected to impede a move by certain sectors to allow Internet gambling in the Commonwealth. House Speaker Oscar M. Babauta said yesterday that a pending legislation seeking to establish online gambling in the CNMI may face some setbacks after President Bush signed a bill that effectively criminalized placing online bets. The CNMI bill, authored by Floor Leader Florencio Deleon Guerrero, has been pending in the House of Representatives for months now, Babauta said.

Warfield: DPS major problem is lack of unified vision

The major problem at the Department of Public Safety is its lack of a unified vision for the department, according to acting DPS commissioner Rebecca Warfield. In an interview with the *Saipan Tribune,* Warfield said the management's goal is to create a simplified, strong infrastructure for DPS so that they can pull their resources and put their limited resources in the places that they're most needed and most effective. "I think that each unit, each division within DPS has worked diligently to do the best that it can with the limited resources that each individual unit or division has to try to provide the best services that they can to people of the Commonwealth. But they need support, they need an infrastructure. They need to coordinate their resources among units. And that hasn't been happening," she said.

October 16, 2007

Rolling blackouts: They're back!

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. implemented again yesterday a blackout rotation on Saipan as mechanics continue making emergency repairs on three base-load generators at Power Plant I in Lower Base. The mechanics have been at it since Saturday. CUC started the load shedding at 3pm at the Susupe Court House to portions of Chalan Kanoa. The load shedding schedule for last night was until 11pm. At least three hours of blackout would affect Koblerville, Afetnas, Chalan Piao, Lower Base, Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis, Marpit, Isa Drive, and Kagman I, II, and III.

Audit: Fund's plan benefits bigger than its net assets

Net assets of the NMI Retirement Fund covers just a little more than half of the present value of accumulated plan benefits, according to an independent audit report. J. Scott Magliari & Company audited the Fund's financial statements for the fiscal year 2006. The audit report was released Thursday, Oct. 11, 2007. A report summary, prepared by the Office of Public Auditor, showed the Fund's net assets as of Sept. 30, 2006 were $472.7 million, up by $12.6 million or 2.7 percent over the previous fiscal year. OPA noted that this increase is much smaller than the 15-percent jump seen in 2005.

American Red Cross to train 200 students from KHS

Kagman High School students will get a chance to learn life-saving skills this Thursday, Oct. 17. Through a federal grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, the American Red Cross will teach students how to perform hands-only CPR.

"We are very excited to see that everything is falling into place as the event draws near," said Kennedy Benjamin, Health & Safety program manager for the NMI Chapter. "KHS will be the first of five public high schools that we will train in Citizen CPR."

The other four are Marianas, Saipan Southern, Tinian, and Dr. Rita Inos high schools. The trainings are scheduled to be concluded by December 2013.

The staff at KHS felt privileged that their students would be trained in CPR.

"Our team felt fortunate that we could offer so many students training in this lifesaving skill," said Leila Staffler, KHS acting principal. "We hope that students will feel empowered to help a fellow neighbor if ever in need."

Not only will KHS be a safer community, but it will meet the Common Core 21st Century expectation for students' health literacy, Staffler added.

"Along with the free training, students will also get a bag of educational material regarding life-threatening emergencies," Benjamin said. "Students will get a compression tool [that] will be used for practicing CPR, an emergency first aid guide, an adult ready reference skill card, and a wallet-sized first aid kit."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

American Red Cross youth club members display bags filled with ARC education material for life-threatening emergencies, Monday, Oct. 14, at the NMI Chapter on Airport Road.

Unlike the traditional 4-hour certification course, Citizen CPR teaches compression-only technique and takes about 30 minutes to complete.

"We hope students will realize that they may be young, but they can save a life," said Staffler. ***(ARC)***

Guam senator seeks AG aid on deportation

Guam Sen. Rory J. Respicio is seeking Attorney General Leonardo M. Rapadas' recommendations for change to the criminal statues in order to clear the way for the deportation of convicted criminals who are Freely Associated States citizens.

Respicio, Rapadas, and other officials met at a roundtable meeting yesterday to discuss the lack of federal action to deport convicted criminals, as is provided for under the Compacts of Free Association.

"In your remarks at the roundtable, you indicated that, in order to meet federal standards for what constitutes a deportable individual, amendments would likely have to be made to our criminal statutes," Respicio wrote. "In this vein, I request that you consult with the U.S. Department of Justice, and submit to *I Liheslatura* your recommendations for statutory amendments, so that we may meet the conditions described under COFA, and productively advance the deportation of certain FAS citizens who are criminals."

Respicio, chairman of the Committee on Rules, Federal, Foreign, & Micronesian Affairs, Human & Natural Resources, and Election Reform, is pushing for local officials to work with their federal counterparts to deport convicted criminals as provided under the Compacts of Free Association. ***(PR)***

CTSI LOGISTICS

COMPANY DONATION

CTSI Logistics, Inc. executives led by CEO Jerry Tan donate $2,000 and school supplies to the women's non-governmental organization Mllad 'L Dil, which selected Palau High School and Emmaus High School as beneficiaries of its "The Gift of Teaching Project."

Guam effort to join WICHE gets unanimous support at hearing

GUAM—Sen. Brant McCreadie held yesterday a public hearing on his Resolution 234-32: "Relative to supporting Guam's application for membership in the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)."

"I was very pleased to see the immense support from both members of the community and my colleagues in the Guam Legislature", said McCreadie. "Joining WICHE will provide increased opportunities for our island students to pursue their higher education dreams, whether they wish to pursue it here at home or in the States."

Resolution 234-32 is the first step towards Guam gaining membership in WICHE. Once a member, a network of over 150 public institutions and hundreds of programs will potentially be available for Guam's college bound students at a decreased cost. Those who testified, as well as the other senators in attendance, were very supportive of the resolution. Adds McCreadie, "It is incumbent on us as island leaders that we provide every opportunity we can to our students. WICHE provides an immense opportunity for our students, and I thank my colleagues and those who came to testify for their support and backing." ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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No Nobel Prize, but Malala's best days are yet to come

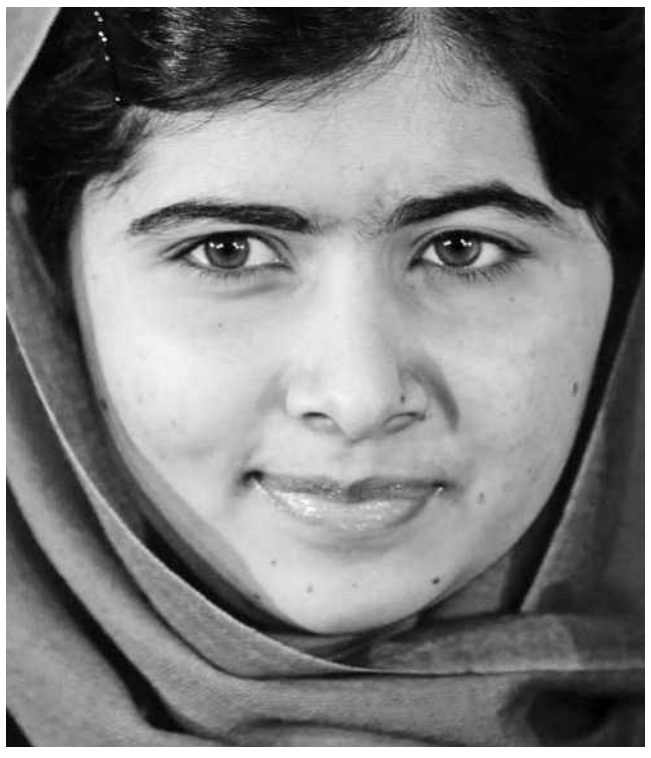
Malala Yousafzai is as extraordinary as the Taliban thugs who still seek to kill her are abominable. The 16-year-old Pakistani girl is inspirational. Just a teenager, she already has made a difference.

Malala was the sentimental favorite to win the Nobel Peace Prize. But the Norwegian Nobel Committee on Friday conferred that honor on the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which for 16 years has been on the ground working to get governments and other groups to get rid of their chemical weapons stockpiles. The group had investigators in Syria when chemical weapons were deployed on Aug. 21, and their expertise enabled the world community to quickly assess what had happened, and ascertain that the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad had launched the attack.

Malala's bravery and public profile have captivated the world. But it is important also to acknowledge the work of a group that operates mostly in anonymity to pressure regimes not to use weapons of mass destruction. That too is bravery. You won't find me second-guessing the committee's decision.

As for Malala, let us hope her best days are still to come. She suggested as much in an interview with CNN's Christiane Amanpour.

See NOBEL on next page



SOFA: US-Japan agreement

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.*

The recent U.S.-Japan meeting on defense cooperation guidelines grabbed my attention. An editorial in the *Japan Times* says the two sides "failed to address most of the core issues under the Status of Force Agreement (SOFA)."

The 50-year-old agreement was never revised to take into account shifts in economic conditions, political relations, military technology and other conditions in the Pacific region. Some 14 governors from prefectures where U.S. military bases are located submitted proposed revisions. It includes a request to review if SOFA is "helping to improve base-related community conditions."

"While the U.S. military was generous in helping with the tsunami and earthquake disaster in 2011, the actual environmental conditions on the bases remain secret. The long history of dumping of dangerous chemicals and other military refuse deserves full disclosure and monitoring. With the current agreement, however, that is unlikely to happen. Such information about the bases does not have to be released, according to SOFA.

"Noise pollution is no less a serious issue. U.S. military aircraft taking off from and landing at the bases disturbs everyone in the flight paths. The impact of newer and louder aircraft, such as the MV-22 Osprey hybrid tilt-rotor aircraft, could not have been foreseen when the agreement was signed in 1960. These changes need to be taken into account in a thorough revision of SOFA," stated the editorial.

Here in the CNMI, any military expansion must first secure approval from Congress. It means an approved plan and budgetary requirements to defray the cost of expansion. We'd be interested to see how the 33 hectares of additional land in and around the international airport would be used, including the use of pristine Pagan as a firing range.

If the international airport turns into an alternate landing strip, both sides must address heavy noise pollution that would be a serious issue for students and the community in the southern portion of the island. It turns Tinian into a realistic landing venue given the location of the planned military landing area being situated on the northern side of the island so far removed from the villages.

These are issues that would require mutual resolution in a realistic fashion.

Thirst for leadership

Americans across the country have seen weak and vacillating leadership coming from the halls of power recently that they thirst for a leader with solid principles, wrote David Asman.

"Just look at three of those hallowed halls of power which have been wobbling along with no clear direction for at least a year now: the presidency, Congress, and the Federal Reserve. All three offices seem half full, without mantles of solid leadership.

"The first rule of leadership is stand tall and stand firm.

"As for the presidency, take two issues…foreign and domestic. On Syria, the president's vacillating on whether or not to attack the Assad regime became a sick joke that…led to precisely the opposite outcome on which he originally insisted.

"On the domestic side, the president is seen as incompetent in dealing with the economy and with health care in particular.

"His most recent admission that Obamacare actually has caused taxes to go up 'on some things, is a reversal of a solemn promise not to raise taxes for Obamacare.

"Of course it's also an insult to those 'things,' which are not things at all but millions of Americans who are taking another hit to their dwindling disposable income.

"A look at congressional 'leadership' is hardly more encouraging. House Speaker John Boehner's recent waffling over the budget is an example. Well, there's my hero Sen. Ted Cruz that has convinced the entire country into returning once more to constitutionalism."

Promise fulfilled

A Native American tribal chief once lamented (on federal land acquisition): "They made us many promises, more than I can remember. They promised to take our land and they took it!"

In retirement pay cut lingo, the same could be said of too many promises more than we can remember. They promised to cut our retirement pay, and they did.

Take a quick trip to the villages and listen to the simple folks who have to endure the golden trophy handed families by this administration. It's all vicious hyperbolic sentiment and it isn't wise to mention your political affiliation especially if you're an IT Republican follower.

See SOFA on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Principle of pain

Editor's Note: The following is the complete text of the author's speech at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's monthly luncheon meeting on Oct. 9, 2013.

By RICHARD A. PIERCE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Richard A. Pierce is the outgoing executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Welcome to today's monthly Chamber luncheon. In SCC president Alex Sablan's absence, I offer today's executive director's message. I look forward to listening to today's speakers, as both represent infusion of dollars into our economy. U.S. military spending federal dollars in the name of defense, and foreign investment through the EB-5 investor visa program.

As long as I am wrapping up my tenure as the Chamber's executive director, and as president Sablan is out of ear distance, I hope you will also allow me to speak my mind. In my 35 years living in the Commonwealth, I have spent over 10 of them working as a special assistant for four different governors. Teno started the miracle, and Froilan certainly knew how to accelerate it, but to tell you the truth, I believe Gov. Eloy S. Inos has the competency and proficiency, where timing is everything, to be the best governor our businesses need right now. But, my government days are over. I must confess, unlike what I had in mind when I began working for the government, it has changed me more than I changed it.

And, it needs change.

I am tired of being told how to run my business, told how much money I need to pay the people that work for me, told I need to train and prepare people for a job, told what I can and cannot do with what belongs to me, told that what I was originally offered to establish a business here no longer exists, told I need to pay more taxes because the taxes I have paid have been misspent, told I must hire someone because they simply want a job and told I must hire someone to replace someone I have already hired. But mostly I am tired of politicians who do not understand they are public servants, and they are to provide what I need to support them and those that cannot support themselves.

The love/hate relationship I have with elected leaders is a fact of life, but it seems even more so in the CNMI. Similar to the "economy of scales" argument our federal and local leaders don't understand when it comes to trying to explain to them why it is a bad idea to keep ramping up wage rates in such a small economy, there is nothing worse than listening to elected officials speaking about business, investment, economics or matters affecting businesses as though they really understand the "cause and effect" of the laws and regulations they throw at us like so many acts of governance necessary to work both sides of their aisles; the people they represent and those that pay their salaries.

Let me be perfectly clear. If I cared about how people and politicians felt about what I say about their performance, I would have never taken my jobs creating and implementing the CNMI Drug and Alcohol Workplace Policy, trying to reform an industry that needed it, or lobbying politicians in Washington D.C. to give the CNMI more time to manage its own affairs.

Recently, there have been comments made by some of our elected leaders that illustrate today's message. I know my comments will be taken personally, but I ask that they be understood for the issues they represent, and those that illustrate my point. This is about principles, not personalities. I mean no disrespect, and offer them as constructive criticism. I do so with the care and understanding of a resident of these islands and this culture that I care very much about. I also happen to earn my living here.

Last month at our membership meeting, Guam Chamber chairman Gerry Perez spoke with the greatest respect to a fellow Chamorro business community on the negative effects of Article 12, as he personally saw them. Immediately after the presentation, a CNMI House legislator, who did not attend the meeting, accused Mr. Perez of being "disrespectful of our indigenous population," saying "People like Perez are coming in here telling us that we don't understand the American way of life because our Constitution discriminates." Huh?

Aside from the fear-mongering, prideful and borderline racist comments made, what about the issue? Is Article 12 harming our economy? Would it help if it were abolished? What about letting each man make his own decisions about what belongs to him? Isn't there a verse in the Bible about being your brother's keeper ?

Herbert Spencer said, "There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all arguments and which will keep a man in everlasting ignorance—that principle is contempt prior to investigation."

The contempt runs so deep in the opponents of abolishing Article 12 they cannot even hear those that support getting rid of it that are from the CNMI. How many bankers, economists, financial analysts, real estate experts, statisticians, libertarians, historians and advisors, regardless of their residence, do they need to finally hear before they change what's in the best interests of the whole?

Our Legislature needs to listen better, take a course in economics, quit politicking, and stop introducing laws that are simply offered because there is inadequate enforcement of existing ones.

Albert Einstein said, "Nothing is more destructive of respect for the government and the law of the land than passing laws which cannot be enforced."

I respect those on The Hill that ask for advice.

An elected leader that I happen to respect because of his accomplishments to date recently stated that the CNMI's economic problems will be fixed if the federal immigration bill, H.R. 15, were to pass and be signed into law. We all wish it was that easy. That leader also essentially stated he believed if the CW-1 cap continued to be reduced there would be increased pressure on CNMI employers to hire local workers. This not only implies an adequate number of workers (from anywhere) is the solution to our current depressed economic state, it further implies that businesses are not following established federal and local preferential hiring laws as they continue to hire foreign nationals when they should be doing otherwise. I know why politicians say what they say. It's in their interests to do so.

Lately, I have never seen a more concerted effort by government and the private sector to do not only what needs to be done to prepare a local workforce for the workplace, but also what any responsible business does for its shareholders: hiring those that are qualified and available at the best cost to businesses. I believe this needs to be said, at least in the interests of our Chamber membership. If someone still believes it is more affordable to hire qualified and available foreign national employees, let alone someone that has to travel to the CNMI, through the stranglehold of the USCIS, as opposed to any qualified and available U.S. local workers, then not only does there exist the implication employers are unlawful, and/or there's a lack of enforcement of federal and local laws, that person does not understand simple economic realities, or has an ax to grind.

I disdain politicians who believe I am wrong to make a profit by keeping my labor costs at a minimum, and worst of all, I disdain politicians who believe they can dictate what I am legally entitled to do. As long as I follow laws and pay my taxes, stay out of my way.

In my opinion, our elected leaders need to spend less time trying to fit our business employment needs into their mold, and more time working with the federal government in creating a CNMI visa similar to the CW-1 within the current USCIS employment visa system that acknowledges the fact that the CNMI has a greater need for foreign national workers than California. In the mainland, these are the H-2 temporary visas, where the CNMI employers would have little access in acquiring.

Unless there is greater care in implementing the federal immigration system in the CNMI—and this is no different than the implementation of federal minimum wage rates in the CNMI in that it was/is a purely political decision—the business community will continue to be subject to the politics of it all. So we get political and have to respond. With the vast resources at the hands of the federal government at the U.S. Labor Department and the GAO, our elected CNMI leaders should get the Interior Department to commission a study to determine the future CNMI employment needs, whether there is a local population base to support future growth in our economy, how much foreign labor we will need, and then adjust the implementation based upon those findings during the transition. If you believe that's what the federal government is doing now, leave the room.

I realize Congress essentially ignored the findings of GAO recommendations, and an Interior funded economic impact study, during the initial application of federal wage laws. That is why we have empty factory buildings, lost 25,000 jobs and $80 million in revenue. It does not have to be that way with immigration implementation.

I guarantee if the politicians stay out of the way of those preparing the commissioned report, it will state the obvious. The CNMI does not perfectly fit the mainland employment mold, hence a new CNMI employment visa. To continue to accept the politically motivated and implemented federal immigration system will continue to hinder business and economic activity. The positive would be our politicians might learn what we already know: how an inadequate labor pool adversely affects business. And, best of all, they could do what government does best: spend taxpayer dollars.

I have no idea what professors in economics are teaching our college students these days, but I know what they are not. My 35 years in the Commonwealth has been the best case study in economics vs. politics that any college could ever offer. It's too bad our elected leaders haven't been paying attention.

Leave the rebates alone. Stop introducing legislation, under the name of revenue generation, that essentially raises taxes. Stop implementing new fees and permitting that exceed actual costs. Read the Chamber's Economic Stimulus Package, which includes your perennial and politically motivated call to reduce the size of the Legislature.

I say this with the best of intentions. And most of all, I say it because nothing ever changes unless there is a need to do so. It is called the Principle of Pain. I hope my message has provided just enough pain for some today.

SOFA

From Page 10

■ ■ ■

The local banks had to secure their fire extinguishers after retirees discovered how much of their loot was deducted, walking off the premise fuming with fire and smoke on their faces.

Said one retiree, "I was told by an administration higher-up 'not to worry' which triggers a troubling reaction when someone from within declares 'no worries'. I'm worried sick now, not knowing what else they would do after violating Article 3, Section 20 of the Constitution prohibiting reduction and impairment of contract."

■ ■ ■

A wheelchair patient said she has $100 left after the 25-percent reduction took some $160 from her benefits. Well, at least she had enough sense of humor left to declare, "It's 'better times' *`nai* JR and 'I'm NOT lovin' it.'" Well, with revenue generation taking a hike way south, the Republican devolved into "Let It Be" but they are back trying to revive it with "This Time." Without begging the point, the GOP administration has fulfilled its commitment way in advance except for fainted "biba".

■ ■ ■

It must be a bad time running as a Republican in the midst of the hyperbole triggered by 25-percent cut that sinks misery into the abyss of abject poverty. Out the window goes security in paying for the first family home, family car, health insurance, real-estate insurance and other obligatory insurance requirements. Call it "unearned" trophy from the IT tandem and we're pretty certain too that it has become the central thorny piece of discussion as they address their candidacy. Simple: You are what you eat!

SOFA

From Page 10

An excerpt from the interview now on CNN.com:

"I would feel proud, when I would work for education, when I would have done something, when I would be feeling confident to tell people, 'Yes! I have built that school; I have done that teachers' training, I have sent that (many) children to school.' Then if I get the Nobel Peace Prize, I will be saying, 'Yeah, I deserve it, somehow.'"

An audience laughed when Malala said that, CNN reported. Obviously, she is deserving of the many honors she already has received. It seems humility is among her many strengths of character.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms. North winds 15 to 20 mph.	Breezy with numerous locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲84° ▼77°	▲83° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°

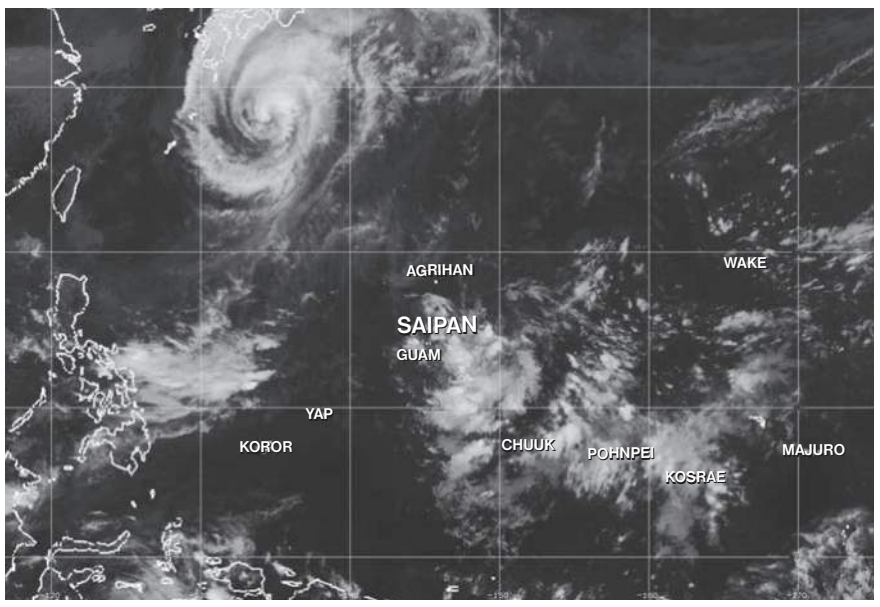
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼76
Palau	Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼74
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼57
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼42
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼74
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼72
London	Showers	▲59	▼53
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲85	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Windy	▲80	▼55
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼71
New York	Sunny	▲71	▼57
Osaka	Rain	▲69	▼56
Paris	Showers	▲60	▼52
Pusan	Windy	▲66	▼51
Rome	Showers	▲72	▼58
Salem	Sunny	▲69	▼43
San Francisco	Sunny	▲76	▼55
Seoul	Sunny	▲63	▼43
Tokyo	Rain	▲72	▼56
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼62

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A developing tropical disturbance east of the Marianas is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 17N and 6N from 146E to 153E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found south of typhoon Wipha north of a line from 20N130E to 24N137E. Converging southwest monsoon winds are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northwest of Koror and Yap between 15N and 10N from 130E to 136E. A surface trough stretches northeastward from 5N147E to 15N167E. Low-level convergence south of the trough axis is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over portions of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae states between 11N and 3N from 151E to 167E. An upper-level trough runs northeastward from 10N161E through an upper low centered over Wake Island to beyond the date line at 23N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located east of Wake Island within 120 miles of a line from 21N170E to 20N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
12:28 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
6:09 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
12:29 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
6:43 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:09 AM	5:56 PM
Thursday	6:09 AM	5:56 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	5:55 PM
Saturday	6:09 AM	5:54 PM
Sunday	6:10 AM	5:54 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:52 PM	3:21 AM
Thursday	4:36 PM	4:16 AM
Friday	5:20 PM	5:11 AM
Saturday	6:04 PM	6:04 AM
Sunday	6:50 PM	6:58 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)			
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:10pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:45pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5074/PR111	11:20am	4:45pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	10:10am	10:45am	6
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN			
SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
PR110/UA5072	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	7:55am	12:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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Business

As US default nears, investors shrug off threat

NEW YORK (AP)—Warren Buffett likens it to a nuclear attack. Economists warn that government spending on programs like Social Security would plunge. The Treasury says the economy would slide into a recession worse than the last.

Yet you wouldn't know that a U.S. debt default could amount to a nightmare from the way many companies and investors are preparing for it: They aren't. The assumption seems to be that in the end, Washington will find a way to avert a default.

"Doomsday is nigh, and everyone shrugs," said Nicholas Colas, chief market strategist at ConvergEx Group, an investment brokerage in New York.

Brian Doe, a wealth adviser at Gratus Capital Management in Atlanta, has 35 clients who've entrusted him with $50 million for safekeeping. He isn't losing sleep over a potential default. Neither are his clients, apparently. Not one has called him about the issue, he said.

"I've not done anything," he said. He puts the odds of default very low. "People in Washington are stupid but not that stupid."

Marcello Ahn, a fund manager in Seoul, is more prepared, sort of. He doesn't think the U.S. will default. But if it does, the economically sensitive stocks of shipbuilders and chemical companies will get hit especially hard. So he's held off buying them.

But he hasn't sold a single stock or made any big moves to protect his portfolio.

"We are not taking actions based on the worst-case scenario," he said.

That worse case is inching closer. The Treasury says it will run out of money to pay its bills if Congress doesn't increase its borrowing authority by Thursday. That includes paying interest and principal on already issued U.S. Treasurys, considered the most secure financial bet in the world.

Historians put an asterisk on US debt claim

WASHINGTON (AP)—You hear a perfect record cited over and over in the debt limit debate: The United States has never defaulted. Better put an asterisk by that.

America has briefly stiffed some of its creditors on at least two occasions.

Once, the young nation had a dramatic excuse: The Treasury was empty, the White House and Capitol were charred ruins, even the troops fighting the War of 1812 weren't getting paid.

A second time, in 1979, was a back-office glitch that ended up costing taxpayers billions of dollars. The Treasury Department blamed the mishap on a crush of paperwork partly caused by lawmakers who—this will sound familiar—bickered too long before raising the nation's debt limit.

As Congress again tests the limit, Washington could learn some things from its past. But those periods of missed payments, little noted outside financial circles in their day, are nearly forgotten now.

Indeed, Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew frequently declares that the United States has always met all of its obligations; a Treasury spokeswoman declined to discuss any possible exceptions. President Barack Obama, reminding Congress of the urgency of raising the debt limit before a Thursday deadline, warned there could be chaos "if, for the first time in our history, we don't pay our bills on time."

"He doesn't know his history," says historian Don Hickey. "It's that simple."

That kind of omission doesn't surprise Hickey, who called one of his books, "The War of 1812: A Forgotten Conflict."

Even Americans who study that war won't find the failure to pay some bondholders on time in many history texts, said Hickey, a professor at Wayne State College in Nebraska. Naval heroics and the rockets' red glare tend to get the ink.

The narrow lapses of the past don't compare with the kind of turmoil Lew predicts would occur these days if Treasury couldn't borrow enough money to pay what it owes to all sorts of people, from overseas bondholders to retirees on Social Security. If that's a financial hurricane, the 1979 Treasury bill glitch was more like a draft of chilly air.

Still, there are lessons in history:

Playing with fire is risky

Tea party Republicans weren't the first to make the debt limit a bargaining chip. Over the years, congressional Democrats and Republicans alike have held it up for strategic reasons.

In 1979, it was lawmakers determined to attach a strong balanced budget amendment to the bill. They finally relented, the day before Social Security checks were expected to start bouncing.

The tumult contributed to Treasury's failure to redeem $122 million in maturing T-bills, touted as one of the world's safest investments.

Some investors that April and May waited more than a week for their money. Treasury blamed problems with its newfangled word-processing equipment. The system was stressed, officials said, when the booming popularity of T-bills collided with the last-minute debt ceiling increase from Congress.

Investors called it a "default" and sued for interest to cover the gap. Treasury called it a "delay."

Most Americans didn't notice at all. But the bond market did.

T-bill interest ticked up 0.6 percent, a lasting bump that added about $12 billion to the cost of paying the national debt, according to a 1989 study in The Financial Review journal. It's title: "The Day the United States Defaulted on Treasury Bills."

That certainly counts as a default, even though it was unintentional, said Urban Institute economist Donald Marron, a former member of Obama's Council of Economic Advisers.

"History tells us that mistakes sometimes happen," Marron said. When Congress keeps Treasury waiting for an increase in its borrowing limit, he said, "the cushion against mistakes gets smaller and smaller."

It could be worse

Sure, it's tough dealing with bull-headed political foes. But at least Washington's not on fire.

The fall of 1814 was bleak. The British had burned the capital city, inspired "The Star-Spangled Banner" by bombarding Baltimore and blocked trade up and down the coast. Tax revenue plummeted, and the U.S. couldn't borrow all the money it needed. The War Department ran short of food and medicine.

That November, the government didn't have enough gold or silver in New England to pay bondholders their interest, as required by law.

Of course, logistics were tougher than in our electronic era. The Treasury needed to physically transport precious metals to New England. "We always have excuses, don't we?" Hickey said. "That just doesn't cut it."

Investors were quick to forgive, however.

"The war ended about three months later," Hickey said, "and so the financial crisis blew over."

Compromise isn't easy

Just like today, some politicians in the early 1800s believed their cause too crucial to negotiate.

"What you have at the time is a very bitter partisan divide between Federalists and Republicans that was, if anything, more bitter than the divide between the tea party and Democrats today," said historian J.C.A. Stagg, editor of President James Madison's papers at the University of Virginia.

"The Federalists thought (Thomas) Jefferson and Madison had ruined the country and had to be stopped," Stagg said.

Angry New Englanders were so opposed to the War of 1812 that their Federalist leaders seriously discussed seceding from the union. They were tagged as disloyal by Americans elsewhere, and that contributed to the party's downfall after the war.

The Jeffersonian Republicans, on the other hand, tried to blame all their troubles on Federalist opposition to the war, said Hickey, "just the way parties always blame their problems on the other side."

Never say never

Instead of claiming the United States has "never" defaulted, it's safer to say America was born in default.

The former colonies emerged from the Revolutionary War deeply in debt. In 1790 the first secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, took the issue in hand. His Treasury assumed responsibility for the states' debts, offered creditors less than they were owed and borrowed more money to put the new nation on solid financial footing.

Other maneuvers that undercut investors get labeled "technical defaults" by some historians and economists. A leading example is 1933, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt took the nation off the gold standard amid the bank panics of the Great Depression. The nation's creditors were paid with dollars of much lower value than the gold they were due.

The Supreme Court said the government could do it, but mourned the abandonment of "the solemn promise of bonds of the United States."

3 US economists win Nobel for work on asset prices

By PAUL WISEMAN and KARL RITTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ordinary investors don't stand much chance of beating the market. It moves way too fast and efficiently. Or it behaves in ways that make no sense at all.

Three Americans won the Nobel prize in economics Monday for their sometimes-contradictory insights into the complexities of investing.

Eugene Fama and Lars Peter Hansen of the University of Chicago and Robert Shiller of Yale University were honored for shedding light on the forces that move stock, bond and home prices—findings that have transformed how people invest.

Fama's research revealed the efficiency of financial markets: They absorb information so fast that individual investors can't outperform the markets as a whole. His work helped popularize index funds, which reflect an entire market of assets, such as the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index.

"Fama's work was incredibly fundamental in the `60s and `70s," said David Warsh, who follows economists at his Economic Principals blog. "It led to enormous practical change in terms of people not buying particular stocks but buying index funds."

Shiller's research examined asset prices from a contrasting angle. He showed that in the long run, stock and bond markets can behave irrationally, reaching prices that are out of whack with economic fundamentals.

Shiller, 67, predicted the dot-com crash of the early 2000s and the implosion of home prices in 2007. He has also been a pioneer in the field of behavioral economics, or how human emotions, biases and preferences can collectively influence financial markets.

Using mathematical tools like the well-known Case-Shiller index of home prices, Shiller has expanded the available information on asset prices.

Meb Faber, chief investment officer at Cambria Investment Management, said his firm uses a model developed by Shiller to seek stock bargains around the world.

Hansen has focused on statistical models, creating ways to test competing theories of why asset prices move as they do.

Fama and Shiller "provide the ends of the spectrum" between those who believe financial markets are efficient and those who think them deeply flawed, with Hansen "in the middle doing the math," said Allen Sanderson, a University of Chicago lecturer in economics.

Nobel Prize in economics

Americans Eugene F. Fama, Lars Peter Hansen and Robert J. Shiller *won for showing that stock prices tend to follow established rules in the long term.*

Recent recipients

2012 Alvin Roth and Lloyd Shapely, U.S., for their work on how best to allocate resources, taking into account ethical, legal considerations

2011 Thomas Sargent and Christopher Sims, both U.S., for their research on cause and effect in the macroeconomy

2010 Peter Diamond, Dale Mortensen, U.S., and Christopher Pissarides, U.K. and Cyprus, for their analysis of how the job market is affected by regulation and economic policy

2009 Elinor Ostrom and Oliver E. Williamson, U.S., for their analysis of economic governance

2008 Paul Krugman, U.S., for his analysis of trade patterns and location of economic

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Source: The Nobel Foundation

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
15,301.26	1,710.14	3,815.27
+64.15	+6.94	+23.40
+0.42%	+0.41%	+0.62%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0484	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7546	Philippine Peso	43.2000
British Pound	0.6251	Indian Rupee	61.3310	Singapore Dollar	1.2420
Canadian Dollar	1.0333	Indonesian Rupiah	10,953.0	South Korean Won	1,067.0
Chinese Yuan	6.1064	Japanese Yen	98.5200	Swiss Franc	0.9104
Euro	0.7371	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1805	Taiwan Dollar	29.3625
		New Zealand Dollar	1.1914	Thailand Baht	31.2750

Nation

Shutdown deal in sight? Reid, McConnell optimistic

WASHINGTON (AP)—Racing the clock, the Senate's Democratic and Republican leaders closed in on a deal Monday night to avoid an economy-menacing Treasury default and end the two-week partial government shutdown.

"We've made tremendous progress," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid declared after an intense day of negotiations with Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell and other lawmakers. "Perhaps tomorrow will be a bright day," he said, suggesting agreement could be announced soon after weeks of stubborn gridlock.

McConnell also voiced optimism—although not as much as Reid, D-Nev., had—and the details under discussion generated little if any satisfaction among rebellious House conservatives.

Officials said that in the discussion to date, the $16.7 trillion federal debt limit would be raised enough to permit the Treasury to borrow normally until mid-February, if not a few weeks longer.

The government would reopen with enough money to operate until mid-January at levels set previously, and agencies would be given flexibility in adjusting to reduced funding levels imposed by across-the-board spending cuts.

Officials cautioned that those details could change, and there was even more uncertainty about other elements of a possible deal.

Under discussion was a one-year delay in a $63 fee imposed on companies by the health care law known as Obamacare for everyone covered by an employer-sponsored plan. By day's end, though, Republican opposition to the provision placed it in jeopardy—just as Democrats had earlier pushed back against the proposed repeal of a medical device tax contained in the health care law.

The two sides were also discussing a requirement that individuals seeking subsidies under the health care law to pay for coverage would be subject to stronger income verification measures.

The government has been partly closed since Oct. 1, and the Obama administration says the Treasury will run out of borrowing authority to fully pay the nation's bills on Thursday.

The result has been a partisan showdown that polls show is alienating all sectors of the electorate except tea party supporters—and has been a big political loser for Republicans.

As a midweek deadline for raising the debt limit neared, the stock market turned positive on bullish predictions from the two longtime antagonists at the center of the talks, Reid and McConnell.

Though McConnell expressed optimism about an agreement, his words were not as strong as Reid's. "We've made substantial progress, and we look forward to making more progress in the near future," he said as the Senate adjourned for the evening.

At a mid-day visit to a charity not far from the White House, President Barack Obama blended optimism with a slap at Republicans.

"My hope is that a spirit of cooperation will move us forward over the next few hours," he said. And yet, he added, "If we don't start making some real progress both in the House and the Senate, and if Republicans aren't willing to set aside some of their partisan concerns in order to do what's right for the country, we stand a good chance of defaulting."

Stock prices, which had risen strongly late last week on hopes of an agreement, were down at the start of the day but then pushed higher as the Senate leaders voiced optimism. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 64 points.

Reid and McConnell met twice before midafternoon, their sessions sandwiched around a White House announcement that Obama was calling them and the party leaders in the House for the second time in less than a week to discuss the economy-threatening crises. The meeting was subsequently postponed and it was not clear when it might be rescheduled.

AP

Senate Majority Leader Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., is surrounded by reporters after leaving the office of Senate Minority Leader Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ken., on Capitol Hill on Monday, Oct. 14, 2013 in Washington.

Libyan arrives in US to face terrorism charges

WASHINGTON (AP)—After a weeklong interrogation aboard a U.S. warship, a Libyan al-Qaida suspect is now in New York awaiting trial on terrorism charges, U.S. officials said Monday.

al-Libi

Abu Anas al-Libi was grabbed in a military raid in Libya on Oct. 5. He's due to stand trial in Manhattan, where he has been under indictment for more than a decade on charges he helped plan and conduct surveillance for the bombings of U.S. embassies in Africa in 1998.

Preet Bharara, the U.S. attorney for the southern district of New York, confirmed that al-Libi was transferred to law enforcement custody over the weekend. Al-Libi was expected to be arraigned Tuesday, Bharara said.

President Barack Obama's administration took criticism years ago when it decided to prosecute admitted 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed in New York, rather than at the naval prison at Guantanamo Bay. After reversing course, however, the government has successfully prosecuted several terrorism cases in civilian courts.

A federal law enforcement official and two other U.S. officials said al-Libi arrived in New York on Saturday. The officials insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the matter.

Intelligence officials interrogated him for a week aboard the U.S.S. San Antonio in the Mediterranean. Interrogations at sea have replaced CIA black sites as the U.S. government's preferred method for holding suspected terrorists and questioning them without access to lawyers.

Al-Libi's al-Qaida ties date back to the terrorist group's early years, according to court documents. That would make him a valuable source of information about the group's history.

Carnival: Boy, 6, drowns in pool on cruise

MIAMI (AP)—A 6-year-old boy drowned in one of the pools aboard a Carnival Cruise Lines ship while at sea, the company said in a statement Monday.

The Carnival Victory was on the last leg of a four-day Caribbean cruise Sunday when the boy drowned in the midship pool. He was at the pool area with other family members at the time, the statement said.

"To the best of our knowledge it is the first time a child has drowned aboard one of our ships," Carnival spokeswoman Joyce Oliva said in an email to The Associated Press.

The ship arrived Monday morning at Port Miami. There were 3,094 guests on the ship and approximately 1,100 staff members, Carnival said.

"Carnival extends its heartfelt sympathy to the family during this very difficult time. The company's CareTeam is providing assistance and support," Carnival said in its statement.

The Miami-Dade Police Department was investigating the drowning and identified the boy as Qwentyn Hunter of Winter Garden, Fla. Investigators said the boy was with his 10-year-old brother in the pool at the time. Passengers immediately pulled the boy from the water and began CPR, but the child was pronounced dead at the scene.

The drowning appeared to be accidental and foul play was not suspected, police said.

The Miami-based cruise company has 24 ships that attract an average of 4.5 million passengers a year.

Phone numbers listed for Hunter's parents rang busy or unanswered Monday.

Report: NSA collecting millions of contact lists

WASHINGTON (AP)—The National Security Agency has been sifting through millions of contact lists from personal email and instant messaging accounts around the world—including those of Americans—in its effort to find possible links to terrorism or other criminal activity, according to a published report.

The Washington Post reported late Monday that the spy agency intercepts hundreds of thousands of email address books every day from private accounts on Yahoo, Gmail, Facebook and Hotmail that move though global data links. The NSA also collects about a half million buddy lists from live chat services and email accounts.

The Post said it learned about the collection tactics from secret documents provided by NSA leaker Edward Snowden and confirmed by senior intelligence officials. It was the latest revelation of the spy agency's practices to be disclosed by Snowden, the former NSA systems analyst who fled the U.S. and now resides in Russia.

The newspaper said the NSA analyzes the contacts to map relationships and connections among various foreign intelligence targets. During a typical day last year, the NSA's Special Source Operations branch collected more than 440,000 email address books, the Post said. That would correspond to a rate of more than 250 million a year.

A spokesman for the national intelligence director's office, which oversees the NSA, told the Post that the agency was seeking intelligence on valid targets and was not interested in personal information from ordinary Americans.

Spokesman Shawn Turner said the NSA was guided by rules that require the agency to "minimize the acquisition, use and dissemination" of information that identifies U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

While the collection was taking place overseas, the Post said it encompassed the contact lists of many American users. The spy agency obtains the contact lists through secret arrangements with foreign telecommunications companies or other services that control Internet traffic, the Post reported.

Earlier this year, Snowden gave documents to the Post and Britain's Guardian newspaper disclosing U.S. surveillance programs that collect vast amounts of phone records and online data in the name of foreign intelligence, often sweeping up information on American citizens.

Asia

Major quake shakes central Philippines, kills 32

By OLIVER TEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Filipinos stand by a damaged Basilica Del Sto Nino in Cebu, central Philippines Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2013. AP

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A 7.2-magnitude earthquake killed at least 32 people across the central Philippines on Tuesday, toppling buildings and historic churches and sending terrified residents into deadly stampedes.

Panic ensued as people spilled out on the street after the quake struck at 8:12 a.m. It was centered about 33 kilometers (20 miles) below Carmen town on Bohol Island, where many buildings collapsed, roads cracked up and bridges fell. Extensive damage also hit densely populated Cebu city, across the narrow strait from Bohol, causing deaths when a fish port and a market roof fell.

The quake set off a stampede in a Cebu gym where people lined up to receive government cash assistance, killing five and injuring eight others, said Neil Sanchez, provincial disaster management officer. In another city nearby, 18 people were injured in the scramble to get out of a shaking building where the assistance was being handed out.

At least 16 people died in Bohol and 15 in Cebu, officials said. Scores were injured.

"We ran out of the building, and outside, we hugged trees because the tremors were so strong," said Vilma Yorong, a Bohol provincial government employee.

"When the shaking stopped, I ran to the street and there I saw several injured people. Some were saying their church has collapsed," she told The Associated Press by phone.

As fear set in, Yorong and the others ran up a mountain, afraid a tsunami would follow the quake. "Minutes after the earthquake, people were pushing each other to go up the hill," she said.

But the quake was centered inland and did not cause a tsunami.

Offices and schools were closed for a national holiday—the Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha—which may have saved lives. The earthquake also was deeper below the surface than the 6.9-magnitude temblor last year in waters near Negros Island, also in the central Philippines, that killed nearly 100 people.

"It's fortunate that many offices and schools are closed due to the holiday," said Jade Ponce, the Cebu mayor's assistant.

He said patients at the city's hospitals were evacuated to basketball courts and other open spaces "but we'll move them back as soon as the buildings are declared safe."

Aledel Cuizon, who works for a Finnish company in Cebu, said the quake that caught her in her bedroom sounded like "a huge truck that was approaching and the rumbling sound grew louder as it got closer."

She and her neighbors ran outside, where she saw "the electric concrete poles were swaying like coconut trees." She said it lasted 15-20 seconds.

Cebu city's hospitals quickly evacuated patients in the streets, basketball courts and parks.

Cebu province, about 570 kilometers (350 miles) south of Manila, has a population of more than 2.6 million people. Cebu is the second largest city after Manila. Nearby Bohol has 1.2 million people and is popular among foreigners because of its beach and island resorts and the Chocolate Hills.

Many roads and bridges were reported damaged, but historic churches dating from the Spanish colonial period suffered the most. Among them is the country's oldest, the 16th-century Basilica of the Holy Child in Cebu, which lost its bell tower.

A 17th-century limestone church in Loboc town, southwest of Carmen, crumbled to pieces, with nearly half of it reduced to rubble.

Regional military commander Lt. Gen. Roy Deveraturda said that he recalled soldiers from the holiday furlough to respond to the quake. He said it damaged the pier in Tagbilaran, Bohol's provincial capital, and caused some cracks at Cebu's international airport but that navy ships and air force planes could use alternative ports to help out.

Passenger flights resumed later Tuesday after officials checked runways and buildings for damage.

Cebu province, about 570 kilometers (350 miles) south of Manila, has a population of more than 2.6 million people. Nearby Bohol has 1.2 million people and is popular among foreigners because of its beach and island resorts and the Chocolate Hills.

Passenger flights were put on hold until officials check runways and buildings for damage.

Earthquakes are common in the Philippines, which lies along the Pacific "Ring of Fire."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Officials: Bombing at mosque kills Afghan governor

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A bomb planted inside a mosque killed the governor of Afghanistan's eastern Logar province as he was delivering a speech Tuesday morning to mark the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, officials said. The explosion at the main mosque in the provincial capital of Puli Alam killed Governor Arsallah Jamal and wounded 15 people - five of them critically, said the governor's spokesman, Din Mohammad Darwesh. Jamal, 47, was a close confidant of President Hamid Karzai and served as his campaign manager during the 2009 presidential elections. He also served as governor of eastern Khost province until he was appointed to his current post in Logar in April.

Mining magnate gives $62M to Aussie universities

PERTH, Australia (AP)—Mining magnate Andrew Forrest pledged on Tuesday to give 65 million Australian dollars ($62 million) to university education in his home state in one of Australia's largest philanthropic donations. The chairman of iron ore miner Fortescue Metals Group said AU$50 million will be used to establish the Forrest Foundation to fund scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships at all five universities in Western Australia state. Another AU$15 million will build a residence for rising star researchers called Forrest Hall at St. George's College at the University of Western Australia. BRW magazine this year ranked Forrest, widely known by his nickname Twiggy, as Australia's 9th richest person with a fortune estimated at AU$3.7 billion.

Police: Small time bomb caused Myanmar hotel blast

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—An explosion that struck one of the most prestigious hotels in Myanmar's main city was caused by a small, homemade time bomb, police said Tuesday. Officer Myint Htwe said three suspects have been detained in relation to the blast, which went off just before midnight Monday at the Traders Hotel in the heart of Yangon, wounding a 43-year-old American woman as it ripped apart her 9th floor room. Her husband and two young children were unharmed. It was one in a series of unexplained explosions to hit the country in recent days, resulting in several injuries, the most recent occurring in Mandalay region before dawn Tuesday.

Beijing airport bomber receives 6-year sentence

BEIJING (AP)— A man who took a bomb inside Beijing's airport in hopes of winning redress over an alleged beating by authorities that partially paralyzed him was sentenced Tuesday to six years in prison for the explosion. Former motorcycle taxi driver Ji Zhongxing went on trial last month for endangering public safety with a homemade bomb. Ji was the only person injured in the July 20 explosion, losing a hand. The attack drew widespread condemnation but also sympathy from many Chinese who said it shows the government ignores the powerless and marginalized. Ji had faced up to 10 years in prison.

Japanese PM pledges to bolster economy, defense

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged Tuesday to bolster Japan's security and participation in international peacekeeping efforts, steps he says the country needs to survive an increasingly insecure environment.

In a speech opening Parliament's new session, Abe said he will establish a security council at his office that will be a national diplomatic and defense command center. The ruling party also hopes to pass a companion bill protecting state secrets, legislation supporters say is necessary as Japan seeks greater responsibility in international security.

Abe is seeking to allow Japanese defense troops to fight when its allies are attacked, by reinterpreting the war-renouncing Article 9 of Japan's pacifist Constitution—a reversal from the stance of previous governments.

"As global inter-dependency deepens, Japan can no longer protect its own peace without actively fulfilling its responsibility to global peace and stability," Abe said in the speech. He said Japan should be proud to have been a pacifist state since the end of World War II, but it's time to be realistic and that "We must act now in order to protect peace into the future."

Critics say the state-secrets legislation may infringe on the constitutional right to know and free press and could further limit access to public information, for which Japan is already criticized.

Japan's Parliament is returning from a recess that followed a sweeping upper house election victory by Abe's ruling Liberal Democratic Party in July. It gave his coalition bloc the majority in both houses, lowering hurdles for his government to pass key legislation.

The 53-day session lasts through early December, but the security bills may take time to pass as the party needs support from its pacifist-leaning coalition partner, New Komeito.

Abe also pledged to further push reforms and economic measures to fully pull Japan out of its long period of deflation, keep control of government finances, boost Japan's competitiveness and restore public confidence. Among them are measures aimed to offset the impact of the consumption tax increase in April to 8 percent from the current 5 percent in April, announced this month.

Since taking office in December, Abe has sought to achieve the goals by a combination of ultra-easy monetary policy and hefty government spending.

Abe said regaining economic strength would help disaster reconstruction, especially in radiation-hit Fukushima, and promised to boost agricultural and fisheries exports.

World

Poll: Latin America's 'bad boy' leaders enjoy high support

By TIM JOHNSON
MCCLATCHY FOREIGN STAFF

MEXICO CITY—Being a "bad boy" in Washington's eyes can have payoffs for Latin American politicians, while being a "star pupil" can have a downside.

A compilation of polls across Latin America released over the weekend found that the four leaders whom Washington considers the "bad boys" of the region remain among its most popular presidents, even wildly so.

The leaders of Ecuador, Bolivia, Nicaragua and Venezuela routinely lambaste the United States, concentrate power in their own hands and run roughshod over the news media but retain significant, and even strong, support.

In contrast, the pro-U.S. leaders of Chile, Colombia and Peru—countries with more open democracies—have seen their public support fall in the past six months.

That's the result of a biannual survey of approval ratings for the leaders of the 19 largest countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Compiled by Mexico's Consulta Mitofsky polling firm, the survey, titled "Approval of Leaders: America and the World," is based on independent nationwide polls in each country with similar methodologies and margins of error of about 3 percentage points.

The results offer a snapshot of how buoyant the "bad boys" are.

Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa enjoys sky-high 84 percent support, the survey found, while Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega has 66 percent support and Bolivia's Evo Morales comes up with 59 percent approval.

Even Nicolas Maduro, who's struggled to hold on to the reins of Venezuela after the death of President Hugo Chavez in March amid rising inflation and sporadic shortages of basic consumer commodities, still has the support of 48 percent of Venezuelans, the survey found.

That's 4 points better than Barack Obama, according to the survey, citing a September average published by RealClearPolitics.

Several "bad boy" leaders have combined deft populist tactics with skills at economic management, political strengths that can remain hidden behind the headlines of anti-U.S. rhetoric and frontal assaults on democratic institutions.

"They've proven to be politically very astute. They have a connection to their base, and they are delivering to the poor," said Michael Shifter, the president of the Inter-American Dialogue, a Washington research center.

Recent World Bank outlooks for Ecuador, Bolivia and Nicaragua hail the economic achievements in those countries.

Under Correa, Ecuador has reduced income inequality, expanded the middle class and reduced poverty from 37 to 27 percent since 2006, the outlook says.

Nicaragua's Ortega has engineered a "remarkable economic turnaround" and instituted "pioneering strategies to fight poverty," it says, while Bolivia's Morales has delivered economic growth averaging 4.8 percent annually over the past seven years while tripling bank deposits and slashing poverty rates from 63 percent to 45 percent of the population.

The Konrad-Adenauer Foundation of Germany last week published its annual Democratic Development Index, in which Bolivia, Nicaragua and Ecuador all marked gains, largely for improving the economic welfare of their citizens.

Ecuador, Bolivia, Nicaragua and Venezuela are all on the outs with Washington, over U.S. global policies and what U.S. diplomats see as a flouting of democratic norms, including limiting press freedoms and controlling the courts.

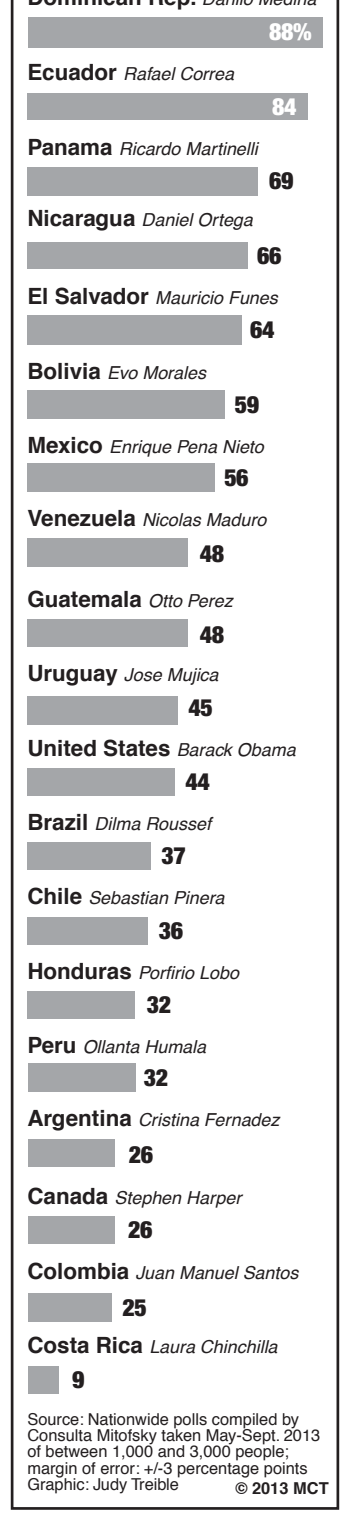
The popularity of those leaders contrasts with the leaders of a new bloc, the Alliance of the Pacific—comprising Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru—and underscores a paradox: Presiding over economic growth in a democracy with give-and-take between branches of government doesn't always lead to popularity.

Colombia's Juan Manuel Santos suffers a dismal 25 percent popularity ranking, the second worst in the Americas after Costa Rica's leader, even with steady 4 percent economic growth and a booming energy sector.

Peruvian President Ollanta Humala doesn't rank much better, at 32 percent, nor does Chile's Sebastian Pinera, at 36 percent. Only President Enrique Pena Nieto of Mexico, who's been in office less than a year, remains popular, with 56 percent support.

Ranking job approvals

Leaders of countries labeled anti-American often have higher job approval ratings than leaders of U.S. allies do.


Dominican Rep. Danilo Medina 88%
Ecuador Rafael Correa 84
Panama Ricardo Martinelli 69
Nicaragua Daniel Ortega 66
El Salvador Mauricio Funes 64
Bolivia Evo Morales 59
Mexico Enrique Pena Nieto 56
Venezuela Nicolas Maduro 48
Guatemala Otto Perez 48
Uruguay Jose Mujica 45
United States Barack Obama 44
Brazil Dilma Roussef 37
Chile Sebastian Pinera 36
Honduras Porfirio Lobo 32
Peru Ollanta Humala 32
Argentina Cristina Fernadez 26
Canada Stephen Harper 26
Colombia Juan Manuel Santos 25
Costa Rica Laura Chinchilla 9

Source: Nationwide polls compiled by Consulta Mitofsky taken May-Sept. 2013 of between 1,000 and 3,000 people; margin of error: +/-3 percentage points
Graphic: Judy Treible © 2013 MCT

No African leader wins $5M good governance award

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Accountability on the African continent did not have a good 48 hours.

On Sunday, the continental body, the African Union, said an international court should delay its trial of Kenya's president. And on Monday, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation declined to give its annual good governance award - and $5 million prize - to any former African leader, saying none had earned it.

A new measurement released by the foundation on Monday found that 32 countries on the continent have seen a decline in the categories of safety and the rule of law since the year 2000, as violence inside borders rises.

Mo Ibrahim, a British mobile phone magnate who was born in Sudan, said his foundation should not lower its standards in order to present the award every year and that young Africans are taking leadership more seriously now.

"Africa is changing, and the young African generation is different," he said. "It is a better educated people, better informed people. ... The sense of duty, the whole political atmosphere around the issue of leadership is changing."

Still, some of the more than 50 countries in Africa are still ruled by men who stay in office for decades. Others are accused of backing deadly wars or committing war crimes.

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto both face International Criminal Court charges for allegedly helping to orchestrate 2007-08 post-election violence. Kenyatta is due in The Hague, Netherlands-based ICC next month, but there are growing indications that he will not go.

Church and state refuse Rome funeral for Nazi

ROME (AP)—What to do with the body of a Nazi war criminal no one wants?

Rome's mayor, police chief and the pope's right-hand man have all refused to grant former SS captain Erich Priebke a church funeral in the city where he participated in one of the worst massacres in German-occupied Italy. Now there's the added question of where to bury him, since Rome, his adopted homeland of Argentina, and his hometown in Germany won't take him.

Priebke spent nearly 50 years as a fugitive before being extradited to Italy from Argentina in 1995 to stand trial for the 1944 massacre at the Ardeatine Caves outside Rome, in which 335 civilians were killed. He died Friday at age 100 in the Rome home of his lawyer, Paolo Giachini, where he had been serving his life term under house arrest.

His death has raised a torrent of emotions over how best to lay to rest someone who perpetrated war crimes and denied the Holocaust that killed 6 million Jews. It has tested the church's capacity for mercy and forgiveness and its need to prevent public scandal. There is a seemingly intractable conflict between respect for the dead and that owed to the millions of victims of the Holocaust.

Rome's archdiocese said Monday it had told Giachini to have the funeral at home "in strict privacy" and that Pope Francis' vicar for Rome, Cardinal Agostino Vallini, had prohibited any Rome church from celebrating it.

But Giachini refused, pressing instead for a private church Mass. The archdiocese responded by reminding all Roman priests that they must abide by Vallini's decision.

AP

In this Friday May 10, 1996 file photo, former SS captain Erich Priebke enters the military court escorted by Carabinieri (para-military) policemen in Rome.

Separately, Rome's police chief and the government prefect for the capital announced they would prohibit "any form of solemn or public celebration" for Priebke because of public security concerns. Rome Mayor Ignazio Marino said the city would accept neither a church funeral nor a burial for him.

It was a rebuke by both church and state that was greatly appreciated by Rome's Jewish community, which has long resented having Priebke living in its midst, particularly after he was granted small freedoms from his house arrest like going to church.

"Any demonstration of honor—civil or religious—would be an intolerable affront to the memory of those who fell in the fight for freedom of Nazism and fascism," said the head of Italy's Jewish communities, Renzo Gattegna.

During his trial, Priebke admitted shooting two people and rounding up victims in retaliation for an attack by resistance fighters that killed 33 members of a Nazi military police unit. He insisted he was only following orders.

In his final interview released upon his death, he denied the Nazis gassed Jews during the Holocaust and accused the West of inventing such crimes to cover up atrocities committed by the Allies during World War II.

Rabbi Riccardo Pacifici, chief rabbi of Rome's Jewish community, suggested Priebke be cremated and his ashes dispersed in the air "like those of our grandparents," the ANSA news agency reported. "He would be cremated while dead, unlike the millions of children who went into the ovens and for whom Priebke never had pity."

In a telephone interview, Priebke's lawyer said he never intended to make a political or public event out of the funeral, but said that as a practicing Catholic, Priebke deserved a Catholic funeral and burial.

"It's a question of a right to religious liberty," he said.

But not even Priebke's adopted homeland of Argentina, where he lived in the mountain resort of Bariloche, would take him: Foreign Minister Hector Timerman said his remains wouldn't be allowed in Argentine territory.

Giachini suggested Priebke might be buried in his native land, noting that he "really loved Germany."

Berlin museum seeks return of ancient gold tablet

By MICHAEL VIRTANEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A renowned Berlin antiquities museum is trying to get back an ancient gold tablet excavated from an Assyrian temple that a Holocaust survivor somehow obtained after World War II.

Who gets it is up to New York's top court, which is set to hear arguments Tuesday.

The 9.5-gram tablet, about the size of a credit card, was excavated a century ago by German archaeologists from the Ishtar Temple in what is now northern Iraq. It went on display in Berlin in 1934, was put in storage as the war began and later disappeared.

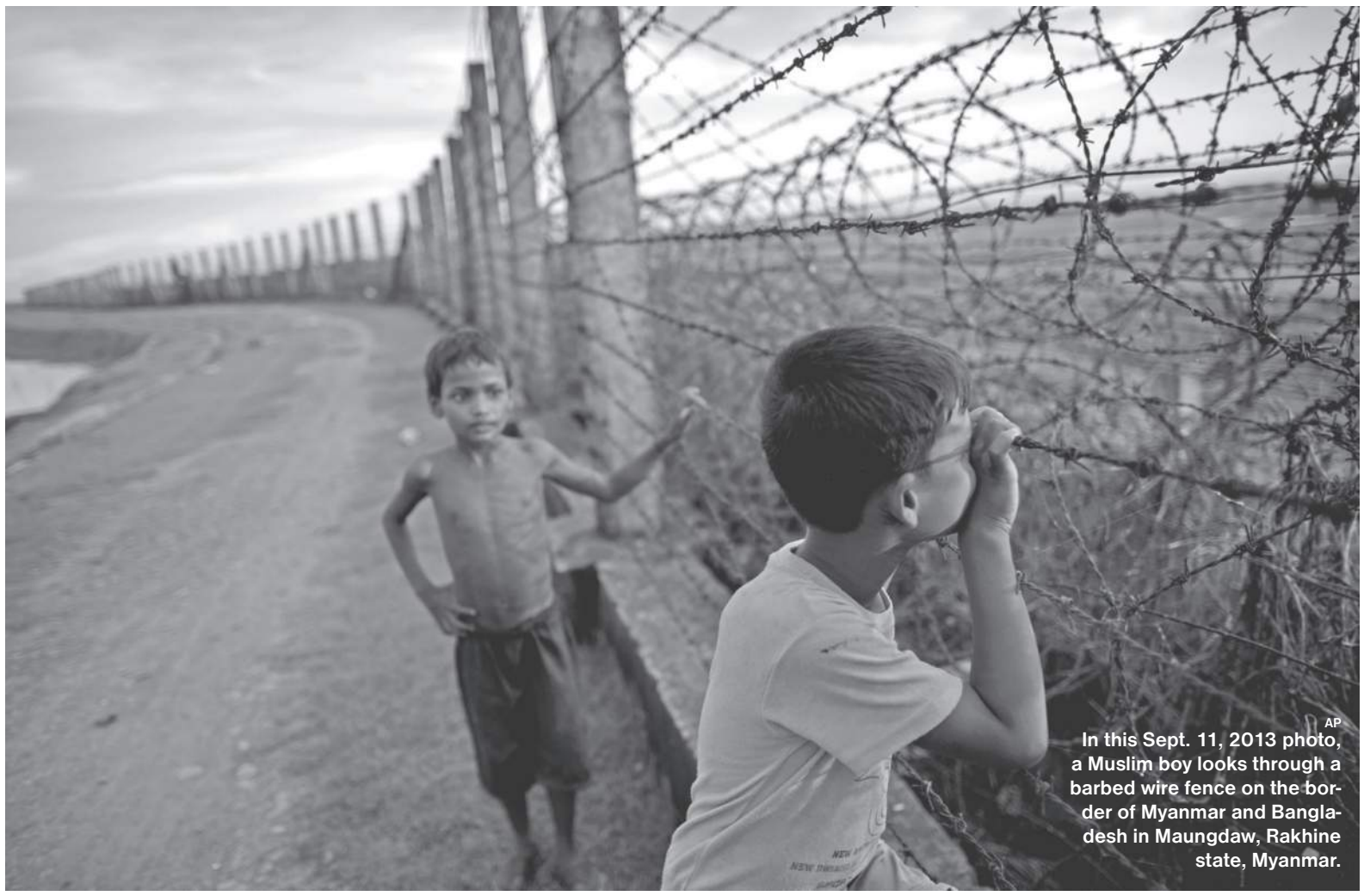
Riven Flamenbaum brought it to the U.S. after surviving the Auschwitz concentration camp and settling on Long Island. Family lore says he had traded two packs of cigarettes to a Russian soldier for the tablet in the chaotic days at the end of the war.

Flamenbaum's family is trying to keep the 3,200-year-old relic, arguing the museum forfeited any claim to ownership by waiting 60 years to seek its return.

Lawyers for the Vorderasiatisches Museum, a branch of the Pergamon Museum, said it didn't know Flamenbaum had the tablet until 2006, three years after he died.

Steven Schlesinger, the lawyer representing the estate, said any claim is complicated by the passage of so much time and Flamenbaum's death.

Focus



AP
In this Sept. 11, 2013 photo, a Muslim boy looks through a barbed wire fence on the border of Myanmar and Bangladesh in Maungdaw, Rakhine state, Myanmar.

THE SUFFERING OF 'DOGS'
Rohingya kids in Myanmar

By ROBIN McDOWELL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Editor's Note: This story is part of "Portraits of Change," a yearlong series by The Associated Press examining how the opening of Myanmar after decades of military rule is—and is not—changing life in the long-isolated Southeast Asian country.

MAUNGDAW, Myanmar (AP)—The 10-year-old struggles up the hill, carrying buckets filled with rocks. Though he tries to keep a brave face in front of his friends, his eyes brim with tears. Every inch of his body aches, he says, and he feels sick and dizzy from the weight.

"I hate it," whispers Anwar Sardad. He has to help support his family, but he wishes there was a way other than working for the government construction agency.

He adds, "I wouldn't have to live this life if I wasn't a Muslim."

The lives of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya children like Anwar are growing more hopeless in Myanmar, even as the predominantly Buddhist nation of 60 million wins praise for ending decades of dictatorship.

The Muslim ethnic group has long suffered from discrimination that rights groups call among the worst in the world. But here in northern Rakhine state, home to 80 percent of the country's 1 million Rohingya, it is more difficult now for children to get adequate education, food or medical care than it had been in the days of the junta. They have few options beyond hard labor, for a dollar a day.

The Associated Press' visit to the area was a first for foreign reporters. Local officials responded with deep suspicion, bristling when Rohingya were interviewed. Police meetings were called, journalists were followed and people were intimidated after being interviewed, including children.

In a country torn by ethnic violence over the last 15 months, this is the one region where Muslim mobs killed Buddhists, rather than the other way around. And although only 10 of the 240 deaths occurred here, this is the only region where an entire population has been punished, through travel restrictions and other exclusionary policies.

Muslim schools known as madrassas have been shut down, leading to crowding in government schools, where Rohingya, who make up 90 percent of the population in this corner of the country, are taught by Buddhist teachers in a language many don't understand.

In the village of Ba Gone Nar, where a monk was killed in last year's violence, enrollment at a small public school has soared to 1,250. Kids ranging from preschoolers to eighth-graders are crammed so tightly on the floor it's nearly impossible to walk between them.

"Our teachers write a lot of things on the blackboard, but don't teach us how to read them," says 8-year-old Anwar Sjak. "It's very difficult to learn anything in this school."

There are only 11 government-appointed teachers—one for every 114 students. On a day reporters visit, they fail to show up—a common occurrence.

Rohingya volunteers try to maintain order. One man circles the room with a rattan cane, silencing the chatter by whacking the trash-strewn concrete floor.

Few kids have chairs or desks. Many are coughing. Others talk among themselves, flipping through empty notebooks. They look up at newcomers with dazed stares.

"If I could be anything, I'd be doctor when I grow up," Anwar says. "Because whenever someone in my family gets sick and we go to the hospital, the staff never takes care of us. I feel so bad about that.

"But I know that will never happen," the third-grader adds. "The government wouldn't allow it."

Rohingya are not allowed to study medicine in Myanmar. There are no universities in northern Rakhine, and Rohingya there have been barred from leaving the area for more than a decade. An exception that allowed a few Rohingya to study in Sittwe, the state capital, ended after last year's bloodshed.

"They don't want to teach us," says Soyed Alum, a 25-year-old from the coastal village of Myinn Hlut who holds private classes in his home for Rohingya kids.

"They call us 'kalar' (a derogatory word for Muslim). They say, 'You're not even citizens. . Why do you need an education?'"

Every year, thousands of Rohingya flee northern Rakhine and take perilous sea journeys in hopes of finding refuge in other countries. Because of the recent sectarian violence, in which 250,000 people, mostly Rohingya, were driven from their homes, right workers anticipate that one of the biggest exoduses ever will begin as soon as the monsoon season ends this month and seas in the region calm.

Some historians say Rohingyas have been in northern Rakhine for centuries, though some living there now migrated from neighboring Bangladesh more recently. All are denied citizenship, rendering them stateless.

"They are all illegal," state advocate general Hla Thein says flatly.

They remain barred from becoming citizens, or from working in civil-service jobs. No Rohingya birth certificates have been handed out since the mid-1990s. Rohingya children are "blacklisted"—denied even basic services—if their parents are not officially married or previously reached a two-child limit that is imposed exclusively on their ethnic group.

The official neglect commonly stretches into hatred.

A government minder assigned by the central government to facilitate the AP's trip asks why they are so eager to interview "dogs."

When young Rohingya girls peer into the open windows of the crew's vehicle, the minder bitterly mumbles crude sexual insults at them.

One thing the government does offer Rohingya kids is work, even if they are as young as 10. The Ministry of Construction, one of the bigger employers, offers them 1,000 kyat—a dollar—for eight hours of collecting and carrying rocks under the tropical sun.

Early in the morning, giant pickup trucks swing by villages to pick up dozens of sleepy-eyed boys—all of them Rohingya—and deliver them to riverbeds.

"See? They want to work," says U Hla Moe, the administrator of Lay Maing.

Later that day, he will summon children who were interviewed by reporters into his office—for the AP's security, he says. The children say he frightens them as he demands to know the questions they were asked and their answers.

Among the kids called in is Anwar Sardad, the 10-year-old stone carrier.

From 8 a.m. until dusk, he works alongside his twin brother and five or six other boys from their village, scooping up river rocks and briskly carrying them up a hill. They look more like little men than boys: No smiles. Each step sturdy and determined. Not an ounce of energy wasted.

Anwar is exhausted but works fast. He even stops to help friends when they struggle with their buckets.

Though the work is grueling, it will help the children and their families eat. The region has some of the country's highest chronic malnutrition rates, according to a report released last year by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department. That deprivation severely affects mental and physical development.

The work of humanitarian organizations has been greatly limited in northern Rakhine. A lack of vaccination coverage in the neglected area means they are exposed to almost every preventable childhood disease, says Vickie Hawkins, the deputy head of mission in Myanmar for Doctors Without Borders, which has worked in the area for 15 years.

If Rohingya children get critically ill, they might never make it to a hospital, either because their families cannot afford bribes demanded at checkpoints or because of the Sittwe travel ban.

Mohamad Toyoob, a 10-year-old Rohingya, has received medical care, but not the surgery that doctors have recommended.

He lifts up his shirt, pressing on the right side of his stomach, where he has felt sharp pain for the past three years. "I don't know what's wrong," he says. "It feels like there is something inside."

One diagnosis among the stack he has saved says "abdominal mass," followed by a series of question marks.

The doctors Mohamad saw at a limited-capacity public hospital are unable to perform the potentially life-saving surgery they recommended. To get it, he would have to go to Sittwe, which is off-limits, or Bangladesh. The latter is possible, if his family pays hefty bribes, but he may not be able to get back home.

Money is another obstacle: His family can't even afford his medication, let alone surgery.

He digs into a pocket and pulls out two little plastic bags filled with red, pink, yellow and light blue pills. They cost 200 kyat (20 cents) per day.

To get the money, Mohamad works with other village kids at the riverbank, struggling to lift rocks. Sometimes it makes the pain worse.

"My father lost his job after the violence," he says. "When he was working, we could afford it. But now we have nothing.

"I have to take care of myself."

Campus Life

Not vacation: Summer learning programs crucial

WASHINGTON (AP)—For many students and teachers, summer vacation was more like summer term.

Reading lists. Science camps. Portfolio development. The to-do list for kids and teachers sound remarkably alike. Schools are on the hook to improve student performance on high-stakes tests, administrators are eyeing more science and technology instruction, and parents are demanding more for their children.

Some studies suggest students lose as much as two months of knowledge over the summer. Advocates say educators can't expect their students to succeed if they, too, spend the summer months poolside.

AP

In this Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2013 photo, Sophie Mortner, foreground right, reads aloud for youngsters attending LitCamp, a summer reading program offered through the nonprofit literacy organization LitWorld, in the Harlem neighborhood of New York. "I often times pick and choose the book that I love," said Mortner, a camp counselor who assists with curriculum development. "Often times they choose that book the next day to read."

"Summer learning space is time for innovation," said Gary Huggins, chief executive officer of the National Summer Learning Association. "Innovation doesn't flow easily into the school year."

That's why summer programs used the past few months to try new things.

Teachers in one of Chicago's struggling elementary schools huddled for two months this summer to retool the reading curriculum for first- and second-graders.

Elsewhere, more than 4,000 teachers turned to a weeklong lesson on water purification to see if parts of it could work during the school year.

In New York City's Harlem neighborhood, students spent six weeks flipping through books on everything from hip-hop to Depression-era toys in an effort to spark an interest in reading and narrow the gap between the scores of rich and poor students.

All were fresh approaches that could make their way into the school-year classrooms. Think of summer programs as a test drive for some lessons without the pressure, a chance to try something without consequences.

If things don't work out, the side effect is that maybe students don't forget so much as they learned last year.

"There's been all this work done and investment made over the last nine months and then that investment stops," said Pam Allyn, executive director of LitWorld, a literacy nonprofit. "For every kid—no matter where they live—out of school time is really problematic."

Allyn compares it to sports: "If you're going for a run or playing tennis, if you take two months off, you might have some muscle memory left but you're not going to be in the same shape."

That principle applies to students as well as teachers.

In Chicago, principal Shawn Jackson spent the better part of his summer meeting with colleagues to redesign the reading program at Spencer Elementary Technology Academy.

"It took us a good two months. We took the whole summer," he said.

Their answer: a stuffed animal called "CY-BEAR." Each student this fall will be given a stuffed bear that they will read to, reducing anxiety to perform well in front of classmates.

It sounds unusual, Jackson acknowledges, but studies have found it can help improve scores among students whose parents don't regularly read to them. That translates to needed gains; about 85 percent of Jackson's 930 students read below grade level and almost all come from low-income homes.

"During the school year, there are so many other variables that can come into play. Day-to-day operations, sometimes we get into their own silos, teachers have to worry about the 30 students in front of them," Jackson said.

So he and his team competed in the Chicago Public Education Fund's Summer Design Program, an innovation challenge that offered educators up to $10,000 to test their ideas.

Tech superstars join effort to put computer science in every school

By MIKE CASSIDY
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

SAN JOSE, Calif.—A plan to build a diverse supply of skilled programmers by ensuring that computer-science classes are available in every elementary and secondary school in the United States got a boost Monday when Silicon Valley and tech industry luminaries announced that they would back the effort with money and know-how.

Tech superstars such as Microsoft's Bill Gates, Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg, Susan Wojcicki of Google, Jack Dorsey of Square, Reid Hoffman of LinkedIn, investors John Doerr and Ron Conway; and powerhouse companies, including Google, Microsoft, LinkedIn, Amazon and Salesforce.com have all signed on with Code.org, a nonprofit group that began last year as the dream of Iranian immigrants and tech investors Hadi and Ali Partovi.

"It's been amazing, collecting this group we've assembled," Hadi Partovi, a Seattle-based angel investor, said at a San Francisco news conference to launch the effort to expose more kids to a rapidly growing field that is fast becoming one of the most important in the U.S. economy. "This is incredible support from the tech industry."

Code.org would not say how much money it had raised from its benefactors.

Partovi issued a challenge for every school student to spend an hour coding during a week in December. He said he would donate enough laptops for an entire classroom to 50 participating schools. Another 50 classrooms will win a video conference call with a tech luminary, such as Gates, Dorsey or Wojcicki.

The hour of coding challenge, which Partovi hopes will result in 10 million students being exposed to programming, is something of a gimmick for the much larger goal. Code.org's plan, with the help of the deep pockets and big brains it has recruited, is to train at least one teacher in every school to be a computer-science instructor.

The idea is to give every student the opportunity to decide whether computer science is for him or her in the hopes of staving off a severe shortage of programmers, a worry of the tech industry for years. Hoffman said computer science education would prove valuable even for students who go into other careers.

MEMORIAL SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

In Celebration of His New Life

†PEDRO COGURE ARRIOLA

Lovingly known as "PETE"

Born on April 23, 1954 and was called
to his eternal rest on October 02, 2013

His Memories Will Live On With His:

Wife: Luzviminda Fabricante Arriola
Children: Luis Vincent & Krystal Arriola (Simiyah and Lucy Pilar)
Chela Marie & Darrin Watson (Gabriel, DJ, and Josiah)
Kimberly & Sean White (Peter John and Aubrey)
Peter Raymond F. Arriola

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Parents: †Luis Sablan Arriola & †Maria Kogure Arriola
Stepmother: †Perpetua Carrangdang Arriola
Parents In-Law: †Vincente Fabricante & †Agripina Ugto Fabricante
Sister: †Patricia Arriola Legaspi

He Is Additionally Survived By His:

Adoptive Brothers & Sisters, Brothers & Sisters In-Law, Aunts, Uncles, Nephews, Nieces, Cousins, Friends, and the MHS class of '73

On Saturday, October 19, 2013, his cremains will be at Santa Soledad Church at 10:30AM. Memorial Mass will be celebrated 11:00AM.

Please join us in prayers
Thank You – Si Yu'us Ma'ase – Maraming Salamat

Luzviminda F. Arriola, Children and Family

First Year Death Anniversary

†Pedro Camacho San Nicolas

Lovingly known as *"Pedro Dagu"*

We, the family of the late
Pedro Camacho San Nicolas respectfully
invite our relatives and friends to join us
in prayers as we commemorate the
First Year Death Anniversary of our beloved
Husband, Father unto eternal life.

Mass of Intentions for our beloved will be celebrated at Santa Remedios Church and San Roque Church at the following dates and times:

Wednesday *Oct. 16, 2013* Friday *Oct. 18,2013* Saturday *Oct. 19,2013* Monday *Oct. 21, 2013* Wednesday *Oct. 23, 2013*	**Santa Remedios Church**	**6:00 PM**
Thursday *Oct. 17, 2013* Tuesday *Oct. 22, 2013*	**San Roque Church**	**6:00 PM**
Sunday *Oct. 20, 2013*	**San Roque Church**	**9:30 AM**

On the final day Thursday, October 24, 2013, Mass will be celebrated at 6:00pm at San Roque church.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

Rosario "Rose" Guiao San Nicolas and Children

Life & Style

Taylor Swift talks next album, CMAs and Ed Sheeran

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)— Songwriting is the topic of the moment for Taylor Swift.

The 23-year-old pop star was honored for a record sixth time as songwriter-artist of the year by the Nashville Songwriters Association International, surpassing guys like Vince Gill and Alan Jackson. She earned the award with 14 hits in the top 30 over the last year, a tribute to the popularity of her multiplatinum fourth album, "Red."

Swift

As Swift accepts the award, she's six months deep in the songwriting process for her next album.

"I think the goal for the next album is to continue to change, and never change in the same way twice," the seven-time Grammy winner said. "How do I write these figurative diary entries in ways that I've never written them before and to a sonic backdrop that I've never explored before? It's my fifth album, which is crazy to think about, but I think what I'm noticing about it so far is it's definitely taking a different turn than anything I've done before."

Swift sat down with The Associated Press after the Saturday ribbon-cutting on the new $4 million Taylor Swift Education Center at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in her adopted hometown to talk about what's to come with the new album, her six Country Music Association Award nominations, her friend and fellow Nashville resident Ed Sheeran and Madonna.

AP: Next month you leave on a stadium tour of Australia, making you the first female solo performer to tour that country since Madonna 20 years ago. Madonna was the top pop star in the world at the time. Do you see yourself as that kind of pop star?

Swift: I would never see myself that way. I see myself as kind of this girl who writes songs in her bedroom. You can kind of dress it up all you want and you can put together an amazing theatrical production, you can become a better performer as time goes by, and you can try to excite people, but I'm always going to be a girl who writes songs in her bedroom in my own personal perception of myself. And I think it's important that I don't necessarily think too hard about what everybody else's perception of me is or else I'd just get completely lost in it. It's just easier to think of myself that way.

AP: You're up for entertainer of the year again at the CMAs on Nov. 6. If you win, you'll become the first woman with three wins, passing Barbara Mandrell. How do you feel about that?

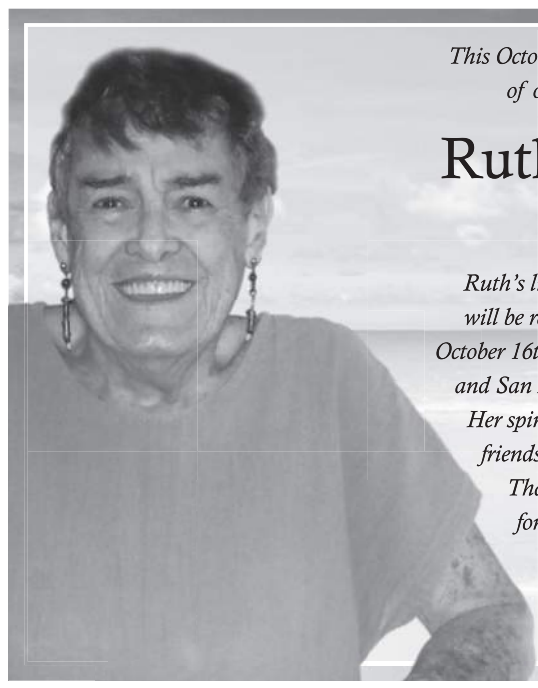
Swift: I think winning entertainer of the year would be an unbelievable thing to happen in my life because I still sometimes can't believe I've gotten to win that twice. So a third time, what I think it would mean for my fans, would be the biggest feeling I would have. Just knowing the, I think, 1.3 million people we saw this year in the U.S. would get to know that they contributed to that and that they being frenzied and covering themselves in Christmas lights and making signs and learning the lyrics and screaming at the top of their lungs and dancing for two hours straight at my show somehow moved the needle and impacted my life in a way that I'll remember when I'm 85 if I get to be 85.

AP: You said recently you've been working on songs for the new album for about six months. What can you tell us about what you have planned?

Swift: It's too early to tell who are going to be my predominant collaborators, but I do know that my absolute dream collaborators were Shellback and Max Martin on the last project. I've never been so challenged as a songwriter. I've never learned so much. I've never just been so excited to show up to the studio every day, just because you never know what we're going to put together. I'll bring in ideas and they'll take such a different turn than where I thought they were going to go, and that level of unexpected spontaneity is something that really thrills me in the process of making music. ... What if we did this? What if we made it weirder? What if we took it darker? I love people who have endless strange and exciting ideas about where music can go.

AP: How far are you willing to push the boundaries of your sound?

Swift: I definitely think that with music my favorite thing about Nashville is that it's a music hub that accepts and allows all genres to be present, and I think there's been a kind of fusing of genres lately that for me makes me really happy and excited. I am blown away at getting six CMA nominations in a year that I pushed the boundaries of what a genre is more than ever before. I'm so happy that people understood what I was doing conceptually. Getting those six CMA nominations to me signified that this community knew that I was not running from where I come from. I was exploring, and I think the more people who know what country music is, the more people will gravitate toward Nashville.



This October 17th marks the first anniversary of the passing of our beloved mother, sister and grandmother,

Ruth Liepmann Tighe

from this earth.

Ruth's life, her spirit, and her love of her adopted island will be remembered in the masses offered on Wednesday, October 16th at Santa Remedios Church, Tanapag at 6:00pm, and San Roque Church on Thursday, Oct 17th at 6:00pm. Her spirit lives on in the hearts of her family and many friends throughout the world whom she has touched. Thank you for your kind thoughts and prayers for Ruth and your friendship and support of her during her life here.

The Family of Ruth L. Tighe

In Celebration of His New Life

† Jesus Igisomar Wabol

January 6, 1958 - October 10, 2013

In his new life, he now joins his :

Mother:	*†Carmen Igisomar Wabol*
Father:	*†Jesus Taisakan Wabol*
Son:	*† Jonathan K. Wabol*
Grandparents:	*†Antonio Sogoligarag Igisomar*
	†Stela Lisua Igisomar
	†Froilan Maligar Wabol
	†Mariana Satur Taisakan

His loving memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife:	*Perpetua Kintoki Wabol*
Common-Law:	*Vivian Tenorio Sablan*
Children:	*Jessica Ledwina W. & Roland Igisomar (LeiLei, Laila, Jaelene),*
	Jesus Jonathan K. Wabol & Antoinette Kaipat (Yalina, Wallis, Aurora)
	Lena Marana K. Wabol & Beti Javier
	Manutiasosupo K. Wabol
	Jessmin Viannie S. Wabol
	Tini Monette S. Wabol.
Reared Children:	*Lorna Ilap O. Iginoef*
	William Jose W. Kaipat
Father:	*Jose Taisakan Wabol*
Brothers & Sisters:	*Bonifacio I. Wabol/Linda*
	Isidro I. Wabol
	Juan I. Wabol/Daisy
	Felisiana W. Patris/Alex
	Froilan I. Wabol/Ester
	Estella W. Kaipat/William
	Mariana W. Olopai/Jose
	Elaine I. Wabol/Joseph
	Frances W. Somorang/Gilbert
	Julie I. Wabol/Alex

Nightly rosary is being said at 7:30pm at the family residence in Fina Sisu.

On Thursday, October 17, 2013, the remains of our beloved Jesus will be escorted from CHC morgue at 3:00pm to the family residence in Fina Sisu followed by responso. Rosary will be prayed at 7:30pm.

On Friday, October 18, 2013, his body will leave the family residence at 7:30am and will be escorted to Kristo Rai Church. Public viewing will be from 8:00am to 9:30am, followed by the Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00am. Interment will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Maase and God Bless From the Family

Bridget Jones is back in 'Mad About the Boy'

LONDON (AP)—Readers, there is good news and bad news. Bridget Jones is back. But—brace yourselves—Mark Darcy is dead.

Fans have been shaken by the revelation, leaked ahead of publication of "Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy," the third book in Helen Fielding's series about the diary-writing singleton. He may be fictional, but the demise of Bridget's handsome lawyer lover—played on the big screen by a smoldering Colin Firth—was headline news.

"I turned on the news and there was the Syrian crisis, and then 'Mark Darcy is dead,'" Fielding said, amazed.

"It's quite extraordinary for a fictional character to be treated as if they're alive. I sort of think, hats off to Colin, because really he inhabited that character."

The reaction is a testament to the hold of Fielding's characters on the popular imagination. In ditsy, indomitable Bridget, she created an archetype. (In Darcy she borrowed one, from the brooding Mr. Darcy of Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice").

Bridget, created for a series of 1990s newspaper columns, was a 30-something Londoner looking for love and career fulfillment while enduring the condescension of "smug marrieds" and confessing her many insecurities in her diaries: "Alcohol units 7, cigarettes 22, calories 2,145. Minutes spent inspecting face for wrinkles 230."

In "Mad About the Boy" she is still counting calories and booze, though cigarettes have been replaced by nicotine gum. Bridget is now a 51-year-old widow with two young children, convinced she will never find romance again.

Fielding said she had no choice but to kill Darcy so Bridget's story could move on.

"The book I wanted to write was not about domesticity, married life. It was about Bridget struggling with what life throws at you," Fielding said over lunch at the London gastropub where she likes to write in the daytime.

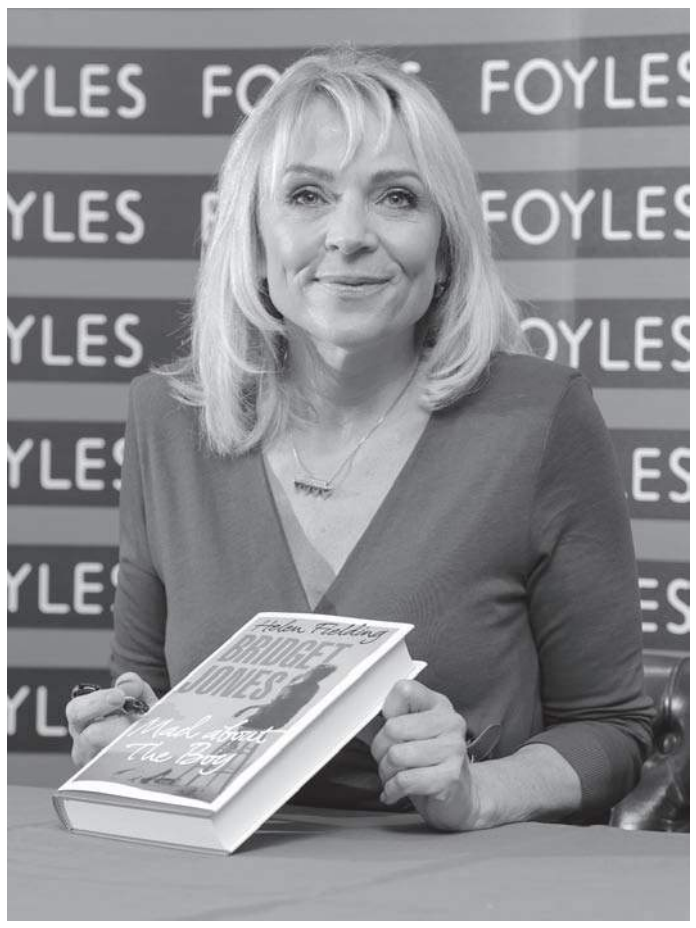
"It was Bridget being single with two children in the age of technology. And rediscovering her sexuality. She was a mother and she lost it amid the nappies and the busy-ness. I think lots of women go through that."

Breaking the news of Darcy's demise to Firth, who starred opposite Renee Zellweger in the film adaptations of "Bridget Jones's Diary" and "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason," was surprisingly tough.

"I was really nervous, and I had to make sure that he had someone with him and they were sitting down. And then I said, 'Colin, I've got something really bad to tell you.'

"And then I suppose I just said 'You're dead,' which is an odd thing to say to anyone. And we were both upset, but at the same time we were laughing."

"Bridget Jones's Diary," published in 1996, turned Fielding from a freelance journalist into one of Britain's most successful writers. The novel and its 1999 sequel have sold 15 million copies.



AP

An auction house worker poses for the photographers in front of a Francis Bacon's oil on canvas triptych painting entitled 'Three Studies of Lucian Freud", in central London, Monday, Oct. 14, 2013.

For years, Fielding resisted writing another installment. She was drawn back into Bridget's world by a desire to write about the lives of middle-aged women, who often face stereotyping, just as the single Bridget did in the earlier books.

"There was the idea of 'tragic, barren spinster' because she was unmarried in her 30s," Fielding said. "It was real then. You were Miss bloody Havisham if you didn't have a boyfriend at 35. And I think the same is true of the middle-aged woman now.

"When I was in my 20s, I couldn't imagine that life would continue beyond 40, really," she added. "I couldn't imagine there would still be dating and going out and getting drunk with your friends and worrying about calls or texts that hadn't come, and what to wear."

In "Mad About the Boy," Bridget's romantic misadventures are overshadowed by loss and the fear of aging—but a strong comic vein remains.

"I think most of the things I write are a mixture of dark and light," Fielding said.

Life is "not all sailing along marvelously, nor is it 'Oh, we're in a well of despair.' People hit tough times, and then their friends get round them and cheer them up and then they keep buggering on."

As in the previous books, Bridget can lean on old friends Jude, Tom and Talitha, as well as disreputable former paramour Daniel Cleaver.

She navigates the treacherous world of online dating sites and Twitter, and acquires a 29-year-old boyfriend named Roxster.

The book also introduces Mr. Wallaker, a teacher at Bridget's son's school with whom she instantly clashes. But wait—is that a spark between them? (Hint: Fielding says her dream casting for a movie adaptation is Daniel Craig).

Bridget has always contained elements of Fielding, who is 55 and, like her character, lives in one of the nicer areas of North London with two young children. She is separated from their father, American comedy writer Kevin Curran.

There are glimpses of Bridget in the writer's quick wit and sense of the absurd—though Fielding exudes a considerably greater sense of control than her hapless heroine.

"Mad About the Boy" suffered its own Bridget Jones-style mishap when 40 pages from another book, a memoir by actor David Jason, were inserted into the British edition by mistake.

And some of the reviews have been less than glowing: not everyone hails mishap-prone, insecure Bridget as a 21st-century heroine. Guardian newspaper columnist Suzanne Moore wrote a piece headlined "Why I Hate Bridget Jones," condemning the character as "vapid, consumerist and self-obsessed" and the book as anti-feminist.

Fielding has heard that argument before.

She said that if women can't make fun of themselves, "we haven't got very far at being equal, have we?"

"And also, I think that is the way women communicate with each other, often, privately. They talk about their frailties, their mess-ups, their weaknesses, their vulnerabilities, and they are funny about it and they support each other.

"I was surprised with the first book, with the women who told me they identified with it—powerful, successful women, saying 'Oh yes, I have that problem with tights being all tangled up.' And it's not just women, either. (Prime Minister) David Cameron was in the papers not so long ago ... and he said that he'd get in a situation when he's got the kids in the back of the car and he gets a head of state on the phone: 'Will you shut up, I've got the Israeli prime minister on the phone!'

"Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy" is published in the United States by Knopf on Tuesday.

Bacon portrait of Freud could sell for up to $100M

LONDON (AP)—A painting that brings together two of Britain's greatest artists could become one of the most expensive modern artworks ever sold when it is auctioned in New York next month.

Christie's auction house says Francis Bacon's "Three Studies of Lucian Freud" could sell for as much as $100 million, above the current record for Bacon's work.

Christie's contemporary art specialist Francis Outred said Monday that "the market has moved on" since Bacon's "Triptych" sold in 2008 for $86 million. He said the Freud portrait, "can comfortably beat this record and possibly even get closer to $100 million."

Bacon's three-panel portrait of his friend Freud was painted in 1969 and has never been sold at auction.

It will go under the hammer in New York on Nov. 12.

An auction house worker poses for the photographers in front of a Francis Bacon's oil on canvas triptych painting entitled 'Three Studies of Lucian Freud", in central London, Monday, Oct. 14, 2013.

AP

Thai bar owner arrested following Rihanna's tweets

BANGKOK (AP)—Thai authorities have arrested a bar owner in connection with a lewd sex show mentioned in racy tweets by pop star Rihanna during her recent trip to Thailand, officials said Monday, two weeks after an Instagram photo of Rihanna with a protected primate led to the arrest of two other men.

Officials on the island of Phuket, 680 kilometers (420 miles) south of Bangkok, said Monday the bar owner faced charges of obscenity and operating an entertainment venue without a permit.

Local district chief Weera Kerdsirimongkon said the man was arrested Saturday as part of a crackdown on shows featuring naked dancers.

"Authorities found out about this bar the morning after Rihanna tweeted about it, but we were not able to catch them violating the law until Saturday night," Weera said. "We had been waiting for them and finally caught them red-handed."

Weera said the bar owner could face up to one month's imprisonment and a fine of up to 60,000 baht ($1,900).

This isn't the first arrest triggered by Rihanna's postings on social media. A photo of her with a slow loris, a squirrel-like animal with big eyes, on Instagram led local police to arrest a 20-year-old man and a 16-year-old boy, who could face charges of possession of protected animals. The charge carries a penalty of up to four years in prison and a 40,000 baht ($1,300) fine.

AP

In this Wednesday, July 10, 2013 file photo, singer-songwriter Rihanna performs at "Le Sporting" in Monaco during her "Diamonds World Tour" to Europe.

Shania Twain announces 2014 Las Vegas show dates

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Shania Twain has added another 15 dates to her Las Vegas performing calendar.

Tickets for shows scheduled from Jan. 22 to Feb. 15 go on sale Friday.

The country superstar already has performances of "Shania: Still the One" set through October and into November to round out her first full year at Caesars Palace.

The five-time Grammy winner known for hits such as "Any Man of Mine" and "That Don't Impress Me" made her debut last December shortly after parading down the Las Vegas Strip on horseback.

Her show features trained horses, a live band and a flying motorcycle.

It's set at the Colosseum, home to fellow Canadian songstress Celine Dion.

AP

This May 15, 2013 file photo shows TV personalities Sean Lowe, left, and Catherine Giudici from "The Bachelor," at the 2013 Maxim Hot 100 celebration in Los Angeles.

'Bachelor' couple sets televised wedding date

NEW YORK (AP)—Mark your calendars: Sean Lowe and Catherine Giudici of ABC's "The Bachelor" are getting married.

Their wedding ceremony will air live on ABC on Jan. 26. "The Bachelor: Sean and Catherine's Wedding" will be hosted by Chris Harrison.

Lowe was named the franchise's 17th bachelor after he was rejected by Emily Maynard on "The Bachelorette."

Other couples to marry from "The Bachelor" or "The Bachelorette" include Trista Rehn and Ryan Sutter, Jason Mesnick and Molly Malaney, and Ashley Hebert and J.P. Rosenbaum.

"The Bachelor" returns in January with Juan Pablo Galavis looking to find his match from 25 eligible women.

Liza Minnelli performs with broken wrist

The show went on for Liza Minnelli.

A spokesman for the 67-year-old entertainer said she performed Monday night with a broken wrist at a benefit concert in New York.

Minnelli broke her wrist in three places while rehearsing at home Sunday.

The "Cabaret" star performed with her sister, Lorna Luft. The event marked their first performance together in 20 years since their duet at the 1993 Tony Awards.

Minnelli returned to the hospital for further treatment immediately after the performance at the jazz club Birdland benefiting the Women's Health Initiative and the Dr. Philomena McAndrew Fund of Tower Cancer Research Foundation. ***(AP)***

AP

In this March 1, 2013 file photo, U.S singer Liza Minnelli performs at the Royal Festival Hall in London.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Strait, Jackson to salute Jones on CMA Awards

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—George Strait and Alan Jackson will team up to pay tribute to George Jones at next month's Country Music Association Awards. The CMA announced in a news release Monday that its two most-nominated singers will perform together to salute Jones, who died earlier this year at 81. Strait's appearance means all five entertainer-of-the-year nominees—Strait, Taylor Swift, Jason Aldean, Luke Bryan, and Blake Shelton—will be performing at the 47th annual awards, held Nov. 6 in Nashville. Shelton won the award last year. Also scheduled to perform are Kacey Musgraves, who's tied with Swift for the most award nominations; Eric Church, Florida Georgia Line, and show co-hosts Carrie Underwood and Brad Paisley.

Lady Antebellum pushes back concert tour

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Lady Antebellum is postponing the start of its 60-date concert tour. The Nashville, Tennessee-based country music trio says on its website it will now begin the 60-plus city tour Jan. 10 in Peoria, Illinois. Lady A had been scheduled to start the tour Nov. 8 in Omaha, Nebraska, and more than a dozen shows will be rescheduled. The group's website says the postponement is due in part to events surrounding the Nov. 12 release of a deluxe version of its latest album, "Golden." Hillary Scott, Dave Haywood and Charles Kelley have been on hiatus since Scott gave birth to a daughter earlier this summer.

Sexually active teens must be responsible for birth control

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My 17-year-old daughter confided that she has become sexually involved with her boyfriend and asked if I would buy condoms for her. I agreed that she should protect herself and bought her a box of 12.

A week later, she informed me that she needed another 12-pack. When I asked why she had run out so quickly, she confessed that she has been supplying them to her girlfriends. Apparently they can't confide in their moms the way she can with me.

My dilemma is that condoms are expensive and, on one hand, I don't want to be the one supplying a group of kids. On the other hand, if I can help to prevent an unwanted pregnancy, maybe it's worth it. What do you think I should do?

SAFE SEX ADVOCATE IN ILLINOIS

DEAR SAFE SEX ADVOCATE: If your daughter's friends are old enough to be sexually active, they and their boyfriends should also be responsible enough to provide their own birth control. Generally, teens do not need the permission of their parents to receive information about it. Because you want to help them avoid unwanted pregnancies (as well as STDs), direct them to the nearest Planned Parenthood Center for low-cost or no-cost birth control and instruction on how to use it. There are 18 of these health centers in Illinois. To find the one closest to you, visit plannedparenthood.org.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am the mother of three wonderful girls. The problem is my husband thinks the way to make them love him is by allowing them everything I don't. I'll give you some examples:

I don't let the girls eat anywhere except at the table, so my husband brings treats into the family room. I try to limit high-sugar/fat items like chips and candy, which he buys for them on a regular basis. I also try to adhere to a regular bedtime schedule, while he thinks nothing of stretching lights-out to an hour or more later.

Then he complains that the girls won't listen to him, so I must be in charge of the discipline. While this makes him Fun Daddy in our house, it makes me ...

MEAN MOMMY IN OHIO

DEAR MOMMY: It appears you're not just raising three wonderful girls, but also coping with an immature, overgrown boy. Parenthood is supposed to be a united, consistent partnership, a team effort. Your husband is sabotaging you and ignoring that one of the responsibilities of parenthood is establishing rules and limits that children should live with.

Your husband needs parenting classes, and if that's not possible, some sessions with a child behavior expert who can explain the consequences of what he's doing to his daughters in the name of being "Fun Daddy." From my perspective, there isn't anything funny about it. You have my sympathy.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I work at a senior retirement community, and the residents have a Halloween party each year. In the past, there were prizes for the three best costumes. However, last year they stopped giving prizes because one of the residents is a professional artist and costume maker, and the association felt it would be unfair to the others to have him compete.

This year it was decided not to hold the contest at all. The residents are disappointed. How can they continue to have the costume contest and include the professional?

DRESSED UP IN LOUISIANA

DEAR DRESSED UP: Ask the artist/costume designer to be the judge.

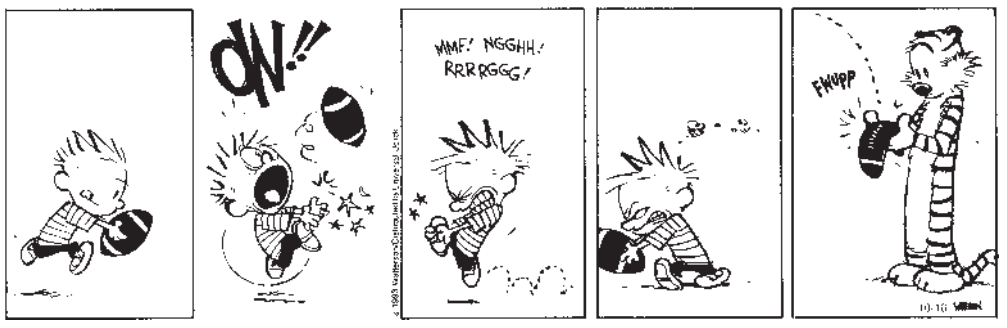
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

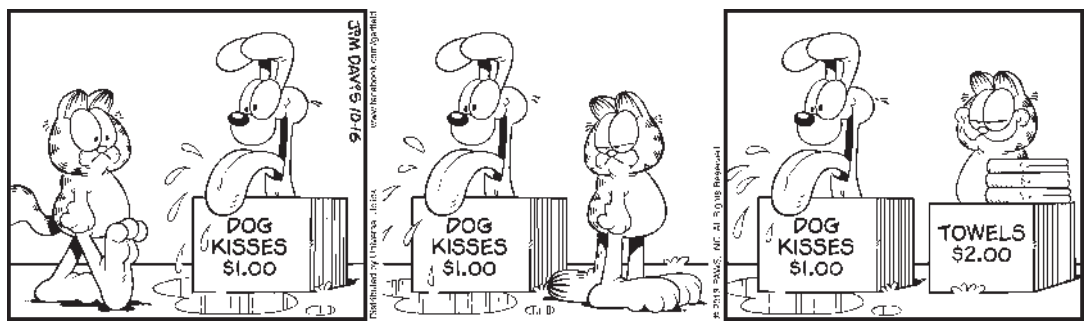
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



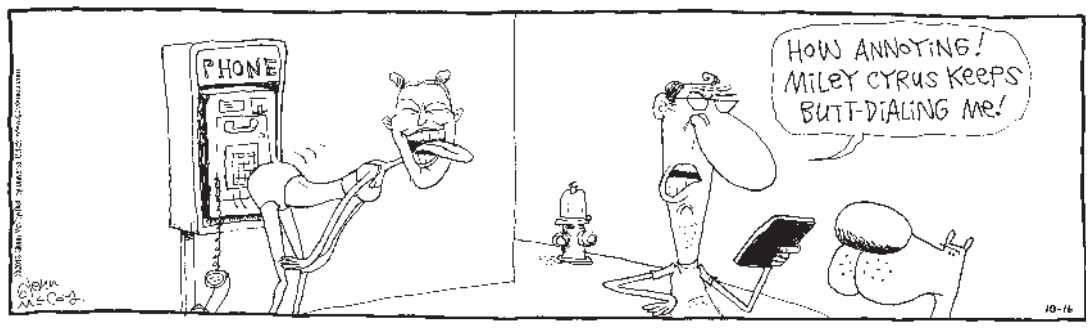
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OH NO. THE ZIPPER THING BROKE OFF!
WHAT??
WE MAY HAVE TO CUT YOU OUT?
NO! THIS SUIT IS MOVIE HISTORY!
WELL, WHAT THEN?
JUST... GIVE ME SOME TIME TO THINK.
THIS FAMILY IS WEIRD.
I THINK I CAN SMOOSH SOME PEAS THROUGH THE FACE SCREEN.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

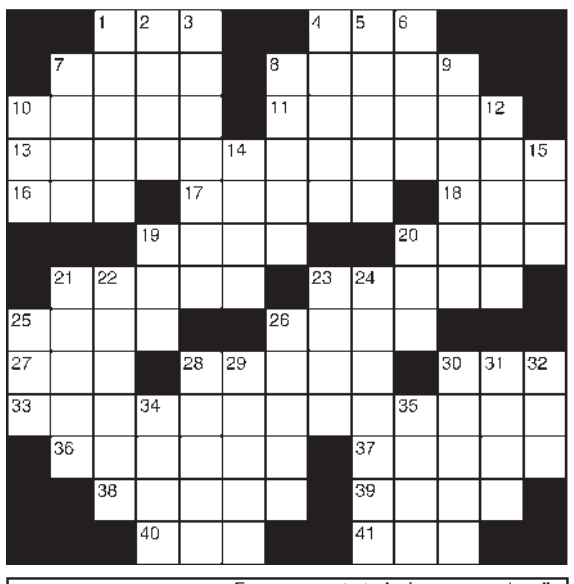
ACROSS
1 Toast topping
4 Pocket-watch attachment
7 FDR's dog
8 Exposes
10 Station
11 Always, in verse
13 SUV ancestors
16 Bronze
17 Water nymph
18 Indivisible
19 Marine flier
20 Dazzle
21 Agents
23 Somewhat
25 Experts
26 Mrs. Jupiter
27 Yule fuel
28 Yarn quantity
30 "CSI" evidence
33 "NYPD Blue" locale
36 Intellectual show-off
37 Heterogeneous
38 Renders sterile
39 Grandson of Eve
40 Commotion
41 Author Brown

DOWN
1 Asian island nation
2 Oodles
3 Afternoon show
4 Islamic decree
5 17-Across' mountain counterpart
6 Titanic destroyer
7 Crumbly cheese
8 Country once called Dahomey
9 Snobbish ones
10 Summer NYC hrs.
12 Boredom
14 Shell array
15 D.C. address
19 "— the season ..."
20 — Paulo, Brazil
21 Dole out the ice cream
22 Part of a pirate costume
23 Resign
24 Anonymous
25 Jungfrau, e.g.
26 "He — at scars ..."
28 Burn with steam
29 Japanese form of fencing
30 Mason's surveying partner
31 Unfavorable votes
32 Moreover
34 Thought
35 Turner or Fey

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	L	A	S	■	L	O	G	■	T	R	A	P
D	O	L	T	■	A	V	E	■	A	I	D	E
A	V	E	R	■	P	E	M	M	I	C	A	N
M	F	X	I	C	A	N	■	A	C	O	R	N
■	■	■	F	E	Z	■	N	T	H	■	■	■
S	T	E	E	L	■	M	O	H	I	C	A	N
O	I	L	■	■	G	I	T	■	■	A	N	I
P	E	L	I	C	A	N	■	F	E	R	A	L
■	■	■	B	O	G	■	P	I	N	■	■	■
B	A	S	E	S	■	V	A	I	I	C	A	N
A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	■	G	L	U	E
K	I	W	I	■	A	N	D	■	M	A	N	S
U	H	S	A	■	P	E	A	■	A	N	I	S

Yesterday's answer 10-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: John Mayer, 36; Kellie Martin, 38; Tim Robbins, 55; Angela Lansbury, 88.

Happy Birthday: Expand your outlook and turn your attention to a broader spectrum of interests. You will gain from the experience of dealing with those from unfamiliar backgrounds or by visiting places that are unlike your normal surroundings. Past friends and lovers are likely to surface, but reconnecting may not be in your best interest. Your numbers are 2, 10, 23, 36, 38, 45, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Emotional changes are inevitable and can turn out beneficial if you are honest about the way you feel and precise in how you express what you want. Making demands will work against you, but using diplomacy will lead to resolutions. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Mix the old with the new. Reunite with people and places from your past and you will gain better perspective regarding a partnership or situation you face now. Speak from the heart, but make it clear what you expect and want to see happen. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Keep your wits about you. Listen carefully and respond precisely. Misinterpretation is likely if you aren't clear regarding what you want. Back away from aggressive action. A relationship problem is likely to surface due to a misunderstanding. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Make special plans with someone you love. Use past references to please someone now. Engage in creative thinking and participate in something unusual, and you will have a better idea what you want to pursue in the future. Avoid rash decisions. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You may be held accountable for someone else's mistake, problem, or responsibility. Be clear regarding what you can or can't do. Stand firm on financial issues. Money and opportunity will come from a most unusual source. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll be in control as long as you are relentless when it comes to decisions and dealing with matters that can alter your business or personal relationships. One of your peers may not tell you the whole truth. Explore a creative endeavor. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Follow your heart, but do not overreact if uncertainty hits. Step back and look at how you can take advantage of whatever situation you face. Taking a unique approach to an old problem will lead to positive change. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Open your mind and share your thoughts and emotions with someone you feel close to. Interesting changes at home will bring you closer to someone you care about. Show your willingness to help and support others and you will be rewarded. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Be quick to make your move, especially when it concerns your personal or domestic life. Don't let emotional manipulation lead to making a poor decision. Embrace change and do what's best for you. Make physical improvements that boost your confidence. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Use your charm to win the confidence and respect of whomever you are dealing with. Keep an open mind and do your best to avoid overreacting to a situation that is inevitable. A change of heart could cause a poor decision. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Keep a close watch over what others do and say. Protect your interests and guard against anyone trying to manipulate your situation. Be prepared to make whatever changes are necessary in order to keep moving in the direction of your choice. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Matters pertaining to relationships of the heart will be difficult to deal with. You will not get a clear picture regarding how someone feels and must take precautions to protect your emotional, physical and financial well-being. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, determined and gifted. You are open-minded and versatile.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4	7	2					
			3	7	6	2	4	
		6				5		
		3					1	
		2				3	7	5
	5	8	1		2	4		6
1	6		7		3			8
8			4			7	5	
	7	5						

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	9	8	5	7	6	1	4	3
5	4	1	8	3	9	7	2	6
3	6	7	2	1	4	8	9	5
8	1	4	3	2	5	6	7	9
7	5	6	9	4	1	2	3	8
9	3	2	7	6	8	4	5	1
4	8	9	1	5	2	3	6	7
1	2	3	6	9	7	5	8	4
6	7	5	4	8	3	9	1	2

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/15

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ARE YOU CYNICAL? **Solution: 6 letters**

O	D	E	R	A	D	I	R	E	C	T	V	R	K	T
E	V	I	S	I	R	E	D	R	U	O	S	A	N	L
B	E	L	I	C	O	L	D	H	C	U	E	E	A	U
S	N	E	E	R	I	N	G	A	O	I	M	F	R	C
G	B	L	U	N	T	U	L	I	J	N	N	E	F	I
N	N	A	R	R	O	Ⓦ	T	D	O	E	M	O	C	F
I	E	C	E	R	Ⓡ	U	E	I	V	A	R	A	R	F
G	T	I	T	Ⓨ	A	S	S	I	R	W	N	A	I	I
A	I	T	T	C	A	U	S	K	A	D	E	F	T	D
R	L	P	I	I	L	S	S	R	I	G	I	D	I	I
A	O	E	B	L	E	O	D	D	E	D	U	R	C	S
P	P	K	I	R	D	I	S	A	G	R	E	E	I	P
S	M	S	P	D	I	S	B	E	L	I	E	F	Z	U
I	I	X	S	U	O	I	B	U	D	U	L	L	E	T
D	E	T	A	N	O	I	N	I	P	O	B	A	T	E

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Bate, Biased, Bitter, Blunt, Candid, Cautious, Closed, Cold, Criticize, Crude, Dare, Derisive, Difficult, Direct, Disagree, Disbelief, Disillusionment, Disparaging, Dispute, Dubious, Dull, Expressive, Fear, Forward, Frank, Gear, Impolite, Ironic, Jaded, Narrow, Opinionated, Redo, Remarks, Rigid, Rough, Skeptical, Sneering, Sour, Vocal, Wry

Yesterday's Answer: Pecan

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Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

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QUANTITY	CLASSIFICATION	SALARY RATE	Remarks
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8	H.E. Mechanic	$5.60-6.50 PER HOUR	Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years or more experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic
5	Architectural Drafter Tech	$5.60-8.25 PER HOUR	Must be a college graduate with minimum of 2 years or more experience as an Arch. Drafter Tech.
5	Accounting Technicians	$5.60-8.25 PER HOUR	Must be a college graduate with minimum of 2 years or more experience as an Accounting Tech.
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2	Power Crane Operator	$5.60-6.50 PER HOUR	Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years or more experience as a Power Crane Operator
2	Construction Superintendent	$1,800 to 2,000.00/ month	Must be a college graduate with minimum of 2 years or more experience as a Construction Superintendent
2	Mason	$5.60-6.25 PER HOUR	Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years or more experience as a Mason.

All positions close on October 22, 2013. Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills testing maybe required. GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: October 14, 2013
CLOSING DATE: October 25, 2012

Position:	(3) Bookkeeper
Salary:	$997 - $1,500 per month
Qualification:	Bachelor's degree plus a minimum of five years of work related experience. Knowledgeable with AccPac Accounting system is preferred.
Position:	(1) Refrigeration Specialist
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Qualification	Associate's degree or equivalent plus a minimum of six years of work related experience. Knowledgeable in the maintenance of vending machine is preferred.

Application may be picked up and submitted at Pacific Trading Company located in Puerto Rico. Please no phone call inquiries. PTC offers a competitive salary to commensurate with qualification and experience.

Pacific Trading Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: October 16, 2013 POSITION: Cook (Mandarin, Korean)
CLOSE DATE: October 22, 2013 SALARY: Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in culinary experience. Applicants with formal training/education in culinary arts strongly preferred. Position may require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment.

OPEN DATE: October 16, 2013 POSITION: Mechanic and Electrician
CLOSE DATE: October 22, 2013 SALARY: Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum of two (2) years of formal mechanical experience or mechanical training highly preferred.

OPEN DATE: October 16, 2013 POSITION: Lifeguard
CLOSE DATE: October 22, 2013 SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Obtaining a lifeguard certification may be required for continued employment. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and a ready smile.

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Team at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266/576.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle/Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be accepted by the Security Office.

WHATZIT Solution: Part of the furniture

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Find today's solution in classified section

Dodgers top Cardinals in Game 3 of NLCS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Led by a pair of precocious rookies, the Los Angeles Dodgers got themselves right back into the NL championship series.

Hyun-Jin Ryu outpitched Adam Wainwright with seven innings of three-hit ball, and Yasiel Puig celebrated twice on his RBI triple that helped Los Angeles beat the St. Louis Cardinals 3-0 Monday night in Game 3.

Adrian Gonzalez's RBI double ended a 1-for-17 drought for the Dodgers with runners in scoring position. An ailing Hanley Ramirez added a run-scoring hit as Los Angeles handed Wainwright his first postseason loss and trimmed its deficit to 2-1 in the best-of-seven series.

"The playoffs are one-day momentum swings," Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said. "Right now I feel like we've kind of grabbed it."

Puig's youthful exuberance, which energized the Dodgers as they surged from last place to first during a torrid midseason stretch, was on full display in the fourth inning.

The 22-year-old Cuban defector was so excited when he connected that he raised his arms immediately and stood in the batter's box to watch the flight of the ball toward right field, clearly thinking it was going out of the park.

Once he realized it wasn't, Puig started charging. He roared into third base and clapped his hands before raising them again as the sellout crowd of 53,940 cheered.

Puig had reason to exult, having struck out seven times in the series before getting his first hit.

"He brings unbelievable energy every day," Ramirez said. "When we spoke to him, he told me, `I got it today,' and he did. He's a great player."

Game 4 is Tuesday at Dodger Stadium, with Ricky Nolasco scheduled to start against St. Louis right-hander Lance Lynn. But there was speculation the Dodgers might switch to Zack Greinke, especially after they passed over Nolasco with short notice in the previous round.

"Everybody's trying to do the best they can to get to the World Series," Puig said through a translator.

Los Angeles got Ramirez and center fielder Andre Ethier back in the lineup after both proved in batting practice they were healthy enough to play. Ramirez wore a lightweight flak jacket to protect his broken left rib - having been hit by a pitch from Joe Kelly in Game 1 - while Ethier has been bothered by shin splints.

"What can I say? It couldn't be better," Ramirez said. "Really happy we got the first win. Just come back tomorrow and even up the series."

Ramirez singled his first time up off Wainwright and then helped the Dodgers extend their lead to 3-0 in the eighth.

Ramirez hit a soft single off Seth Maness over the head of second baseman Kolten Wong to score Carl Crawford. The speedy Crawford, on second base after a one-out single, rounded third and never stopped running when the throw from the outfield went to second base.

On a close play at the plate, Crawford barely beat the tag by catcher Yadier Molina.

"We just had a lot of balls in the air tonight that hit the ground that normally don't," Cardinals manager Mike Matheny said. "We're a better club than this."

During the rally, retired Dodgers manager Tom Lasorda, whose 1988 team won the franchise's last World Series title, stood up and waved his white rally towel to raucous applause.

"We just knew we had to scratch away and get a win," Dodgers catcher A.J. Ellis said. "We needed a great starting pitching performance from Hyun-Jin, and we got that. You knew it was going to be tough sledding against a guy like Adam. He's so good, especially on the big stage, so we were fortunate we scratched a couple of runs across."

Wainwright entered 4-0 with a 2.03 ERA and four saves in 15 career postseason games, including six starts. He pitched St. Louis past Pittsburgh in the division series, going the distance in a decisive Game 5 last Wednesday.

The right-hander tossed seven strong innings this time, allowing two runs and six hits with five strikeouts and no walks. Ryu, however, was even better.

"I hate to lose," Wainwright said. "I felt like tonight if I had got a couple of balls in there, we win the game. I think you just have to tip your hat and move on."

Los Angeles Dodgers' Yasiel Puig can't catch a ball hit by St. Louis Cardinals' David Freese during the fifth inning of Game 3 of the National League baseball championship series, Monday, Oct. 14, 2013, in Los Angeles. The Dodgers won, 3-0.

The two pitchers were nearly even through the first three scoreless innings, with Wainwright giving up one hit. Ryu, who struggled in his first postseason start in the division series against Atlanta, retired 12 of his first 13 batters, yielding only a walk.

"I just zoned in," Ryu said.

Ryu was much improved after lasting just three innings as the first South Korean pitcher to start a playoff game last week against the Braves. He allowed four runs on six hits for a no-decision in a game the Dodgers won.

The left-hander didn't permit a Cardinals runner past second base. David Freese's single to right leading off the fifth was their first hit of the game.

Freese was replaced by a pinch-runner because of tightness in his right calf. He is day to day.

Ryu struck out four and walked one.

Mattingly came out to the mound accompanied by a translator with two outs in the seventh. Ryu responded by striking out Matt Adams to end the inning as Ellis pumped his right arm in the air. Fans waved South Korean flags in support of Ryu.

"It's definitely a big motivation when you see your star players go out there hurt," Ryu said through a translator. "It really inspires you and motivates you to go out there and do the best you can."

Kenley Jansen pitched a perfect ninth for a save.

Major League Baseball noted on Twitter that the nine combined runs in the series are the fewest ever through three games of a league championship series, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

After the first two games in St. Louis were decided by one run, the Dodgers got to Wainwright in the fourth and took a 2-0 lead.

Gonzalez's double down the right-field line scored Mark Ellis, who doubled leading off. Gonzalez smacked his hands together in a celebratory gesture resembling an explosion.

"I saw Adrian doing some Mickey Mouse stuff at second," Wainwright said.

Gonzalez replied: "I did what I always do. Mickey Mouse is only an hour away so, you know, it fits us."

With two outs, Puig tripled off the wall in right to snap his 0-for-11 skid in the series.

Cardinals center fielder Jon Jay was involved in an apparent miscommunication when the ball hit by Mark Ellis dropped between him and right fielder Carlos Beltran. The Dodgers' first hit, a single by Ramirez to shallow center in the first, dropped between Jay and second baseman Matt Carpenter.

"It's a ball I've got to catch. I'm the center fielder. It's my ball. I've got to take charge," Jay said. "It came back to haunt us, but that's part of baseball. You're going to make mistakes sometimes."

Tigers turn to Verlander after Game 2 collapse

DETROIT (AP)—The last time Justin Verlander took the mound, his team's season was on the line.

The stakes won't be quite that high for his next start, but the Detroit Tigers could certainly use another brilliant performance from their star right-hander after blowing a chance to take control of the AL championship series.

Detroit wasted a five-run lead Sunday night in Game 2, allowing the Boston Red Sox to even the series with a 6-5 victory. David Ortiz's tying grand slam in the eighth inning snapped the Red Sox out of a hitting funk, and if Boston goes on to win the pennant, there may be little doubt about the turning point in this series.

Verlander's job is to steady the defending AL champion Tigers.

"Obviously that was a tough one," Verlander said. "At the same time you know this series is going to be a dogfight. Nobody is going to walk over anybody."

The Tigers looked like they were ready to roll through the series after they won the opener and took a 5-0 lead in Game 2. Anibal Sanchez held Boston hitless for six innings on Saturday, and Max Scherzer allowed a run and two hits in seven innings Sunday.

Boston trailed 5-1 in the eighth in Game 2 before a remarkable rally against four relievers. Ortiz tied it with a two-out grand slam off closer Joaquin Benoit.

"I made a mistake that I take full responsibility for," Tigers manager Jim Leyland said. "I should have just reminded him that we didn't want Ortiz to really beat us. He tried to make a great pitch. He tried to get it low and away out of the strike zone, but he didn't get it there."

Boston managed to win one of two at home despite striking out 32 times - eight more than the previous record for the first two games of an LCS, set by the Los Angeles Dodgers a day earlier. The Red Sox are hopeful their bats will come around, starting against Verlander in Game 3 at Comerica Park on Tuesday.

"I think we certainly gained some confidence in the last couple innings," Boston manager John Farrell said. "The work of Sanchez and Scherzer has been nothing short of spectacular. ... We feel like tomorrow's starter in Verlander is going to be a similar, if not a more difficult, challenge than what we faced already."

After a pedestrian regular season by his standards, Verlander pitched15 scoreless innings in the division series against Oakland, including eight in a winner-take-all Game 5. The Tigers have taken no-hitters into at least the sixth inning in three straight games, a remarkable feat even for a staff that set a major league record with 1,428 strikeouts during the regular season.

Detroit's starters have picked up where they left off during last year's American League playoffs, when the Tigers' rotation posted a 1.02 ERA through the division series and ALCS. Detroit won the AL pennant before being swept by San Francisco in the World Series.

"We've got a starting rotation that's relentless, and I said that before the series started. Every guy has their unique ability to shut down a team in their own way," Verlander said. "I'm just one of the four guys right now."

The Red Sox will send John Lackey to the mound to face Verlander. Lackey was able to make 29 starts during the regular season, posting a 3.52 ERA after missing all of 2012 following elbow ligament-replacement surgery.

Lackey will try to hold Detroit's offense in check and hope the Red Sox can become the first team this postseason to break through against Verlander.

"We've got a great lineup. I'm going into the game with a great group of guys behind me," Lackey said. "Those guys are going to fight him. He's kind of our lineup's problem. I've got my own problems with their lineup."

Leyland says he'll probably play Jhonny Peralta at shortstop for a second straight game, with Andy Dirks in left field instead of Don Kelly. Boston's Mike Napoli is expected to be back at first base in a lineup similar to what the Red Sox used in Game 1.

Those are minor adjustments, obviously. Don't expect too many drastic changes as this series progresses. Both teams rely on established stars who have played in their share of big postseason games.

"It's always nice to have Justin Verlander on the mound no matter what the situation is," Leyland said. "There won't be any carry-over for our guys from that game last night. That's over with."

Rivers, Novak lead Chargers to 19-9 win

San Diego Chargers wide receiver Keenan Allen, left, makes a touchdown catch in the end zone as Indianapolis Colts free safety Delano Howell, right, defends during the first half of an NFL football game Monday, Oct. 14, 2013, in San Diego.

SAN DIEGO (AP) -- Philip Rivers and the San Diego Chargers slowly put to rest all that talk about Andrew Luck and the Indianapolis Colts' offense.

It was hard for Luck to pull off another comeback, or even get into the end zone, while standing on the sideline.

Rivers threw a 22-yard touchdown pass to rookie Keenan Allen and Nick Novak kicked four field goals to give the Chargers a 19-9 victory against the Colts on Monday night.

"I wasn't sure who the Colts were playing this week all the ads I saw," Rivers said, noting that all the pregame buzz surrounded the Colts (4-2), not the Bolts (3-3).

Rivers expertly guided a balanced offense on three scoring drives of at least 74 yards while rebounding from a three-interception performance in a dismal loss at Oakland.

That, and a lot of dropped passes by Colts receivers, kept Indianapolis (4-2) from taking a two-game lead over Tennessee in the AFC South.

The Colts didn't even score a touchdown. All their points came on three field goals by Adam Vinatieri.

A week earlier, Luck helped rally the Colts to a 34-28 victory against Seattle.

"We knew if we didn't turn the ball over and we sustained drives, which we did—we had some 12, 14, 16-play drives—that we'd give ourselves a chance to win," Rivers said.

"We didn't go into the game saying `Let's play ball control,' Rivers added. "We wanted to score as many points as we could. We didn't score that many, but we did sustain drives. I thought Keenan Allen stepped up big. They were doubling Gatesy (Antonio Gates) a lot, and Danny Woodhead stepped up big. The offensive line was great. That's the way we need to be able to run the football. If we can mix the run in, we got a chance."

Luck had no real chance against the Bolts because of two long drives in the second quarter that helped contribute to the Chargers dominating the time of possession 38 minutes, 31 seconds to 21:29.

Allen got behind safety Delano Howell and cornerback Vontae Davis on a post route for the TD, completing a 12-play, 74-yard march that took 6:14 and gave San Diego a 7-3 lead. It was Allen's second TD catch of the season.

Novak's first field goal capped a drive that went 79 yards in 17 plays in 7:58. The drive was kept alive when cornerback Greg Toler was whistled for illegal contact for pushing receiver Lavelle Hawkins out of bounds on third-and-6 from the Chargers 45.

Luck then completed four straight passes to move the Colts into Chargers territory before Coby Fleener dropped a pass at the 25. Luck scrambled for 6 yards and threw an incompletion before Vinatieri kicked a 50-yard field goal as time expired.

On the Colts' only other possession of the second quarter, Darrius Heyward-Bey dropped what likely would have been a long touchdown pass down the right sideline.

"We stunk on third down today," Luck said. "A lot of credit to their defense. I think we made our fair share of mistakes, but I think it's what they did. If we can't convert third downs and drives continually stall like that, it's a short rest for our defense and no points for us, so it's a bad combination."

Novak also had field goals of 33, 34 and 50 yards, with the final one coming with 1:55 left. Vinatieri had kicks of 30, 50 and 51 yards.

Chargers cornerback Derek Cox snuffed out Indy's final chance when he intercepted a pass that was tipped by receiver Reggie Wayne with 1:07 to play.

Rivers was 22 of 33 for 237 yards and no interceptions. Luck was 18 of 30 for 202 yards.

Wayne got his 1,000th career reception in the fourth quarter on a 21-yard pass from Luck. Wayne had five catches for 88 yards, giving him 1,001 for his career. He passed Hines Ward (1,000) for eighth place on the NFL list.

"It's a great honor," Wayne said. "It's a humbling experience to be in an elite class with a bunch of guys who have helped pave the way for guys like myself. I wish it was more of a greater celebration. I would rather take the `W' than any accolades."

The Colts opened the game with a flea-flicker, with Trent Richardson taking the handoff and tossing the ball back to Luck, who completed a 35-yard pass to Wayne. The drive bogged down at the Chargers 11, leading to Vinatieri's 30-yard field goal.

San Diego established its running game with 147 yards. Ryan Mathews ran for 102 yards on 22 carries for his first 100-yard game of the season.

There were family ties in this one: Chargers defensive coordinator John Pagano beat older brother Chuck, the Colts' coach.

"Give John Pagano the credit he deserves," Chargers coach Mike McCoy said. "He did an outstanding job of getting these players ready. It's him and the rest of the whole defensive staff."

World doping agency to probe Jamaica

NEW YORK (AP)— A year after Usain Bolt made history at the London Olympics and declared himself "a living legend," a bombshell dropped largely unnoticed in The Gleaner, the Caribbean's oldest newspaper: A former director of the Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission alleged the island didn't drug-test its athletes for entire months before they dazzled at the Summer Games.

Statistics compiled by former JADCO Executive Director Renee Anne Shirley indicated a near-complete breakdown in the agency's out-of-competition testing from January 2012 to the July opening of the Olympics.

In an interview with The Associated Press, JADCO chairman Herbert Elliott dismissed Shirley's figures as lies and described her as "a bit demented" and "a Judas.

But the World Anti-Doping Agency confirmed to AP that there was, as Shirley asserted, "a significant gap of no testing" by JADCO as athletes trained for London - and that it would launch an "extraordinary" audit of the Jamaican agency.

What's more, International Olympic Committee medical chiefs, WADA and Britain's anti-doping agency, which also worked on London's massive drug-testing program, told the AP that they were kept in the dark about Jamaican testing lapses that Shirley exposed in her August letter to The Gleaner.

"There was a period of ... maybe five to six months during the beginning part of 2012 where there was no effective operation," WADA Director General David Howman said in an interview. "No testing. There might have been one or two, but there was no testing. So we were worried about it, obviously."

Jamaican stars didn't go completely untested before London. Track and field's governing body, the IAAF, says it extensively tested elite Jamaicans, including Bolt more than 12 times last year. History's fastest human has never failed a drug test.

Jamaica won eight of 12 individual sprint medals in London. Bolt became the first man to win both the 100 and 200 meters at consecutive games and anchored Jamaica's relay victory in world-record time.

It isn't possible to judge with any certainty whether the gaps in Jamaica's testing opened a door to cheating, particularly because other agencies refuse to say how many tests were conducted on the Jamaicans in 2012.

The revelations by Shirley, however, were alarming enough to prompt action. While WADA has audited Jamaica's testing regime before, Howman said its new action is a direct response to the problems Shirley exposed and to positive doping tests this year for five athletes who competed for Jamaica in London. They include former world 100 record holder Asafa Powell and Sherone Simpson, an Olympic 4x100-relay gold and silver medalist.

"It's an extraordinary visit," Howman said. Jamaica is "a high priority.— They're on our radar."

WADA is unhappy Jamaica hasn't agreed to a swift inspection. Elliott said JADCO couldn't accommodate the auditors when WADA wanted and isn't expecting the visit before the end of the year.

Shirley said JADCO conducted 96 tests in competition in 2012 before the Olympics, all in May and June at an invitational meet and the national trials. But away from the competitive events, there was no Jamaican testing for five of the seven months before the London Games, she said.

After 10 tests in February and one in April, JADCO's out-of-competition program stopped, according to Shirley's figures. She later gave the same figures to Sports Illustrated, where they generated more attention than her letter to The Gleaner.

"It irritated me as a Jamaican: one test out of competition, for what, five months or four months?" Shirley said in a telephone interview. "Given that it was an Olympic year, I felt that more could have been done."

IOC medical commission Chairman Arne Ljungqvist and Patrick Schamasch, who retired as IOC medical director after London, said they weren't told of the testing gap. They said they could have ordered additional tests on Jamaica's team had they known.

"For certain, we weren't informed of anything about Jamaica," Schamasch said. "Had we been told that JADCO wasn't able to test beforehand, we possibly could have readjusted our aim a little bit."

Ljungqvist said: "Jamaica is far from being alone, you know? We know that out-of-competition testing in the proper way is not being conducted unfortunately in many parts of the world. One shouldn't single out Jamaica."

But Jamaica isn't just any country. Led by Bolt, it dethroned the U.S. as the dominant sprinting power at the last two Olympics.

"It's almost abnormal, OK? Let's face it. For a country of less than 3 million people," Shirley said. "What, you're saying there's something peculiar in the water in Jamaica?"

Howman told the AP that WADA learned only after London - from Shirley - of the testing voids. Although JADCO was under no obligation to inform anyone earlier, "you'd expect it," he said.

"We had no knowledge of anything that was down there until we heard from her."

Elliott, the JADCO chairman, bristles at the mention of Shirley's name.

"Ms. Shirley has done this country and herself a great deal of harm by saying things that are not totally in keeping with the truth," he said in a phone interview.

JADCO's and Shirley's overall testing figures for 2012 actually agree. Both say JADCO did a total of 179 tests - 108 in competition and 71 out of competition. But Shirley gave month-by-month figures, and JADCO didn't.

Pressed by AP, Elliot said: "Maybe I'll have the figures tomorrow."

Hyatt golf tournament changes format

Hyatt Regency Saipan is inviting golf enthusiasts to join the 18th Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic to be held at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort on Nov. 16.

After announcing the four man scramble and best ball formats last week, organizers saw the need to further evolve this event into a more competitive and straightforward format. So, for the first time, the Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic will feature a player-friendly format that categorizes each flight as follows: A Flight (for players with 0-11 handicap; B Flight (12-20 handicap; C Flight (20 and above handicap); Seniors (golfers in the 55 and above age group); and Ladies, which will have a double peoria format.

The Top 3 placers in each flight will receive prizes. The champions will get a one night accommodation in a Presidential suite, Sunday brunch at Giovanni's for two, and a Swedish massage at i Saguá Spa for two, while runners-up will take home one night accommodation in a Regency Executive suite and Sunday brunch at Giovanni's for two. The third finisher will get a one night accommodation in a Regency Club room and Sunday brunch at Giovanni's for two.

Through this annual event, Hyatt Regency Saipan, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and its supporters will fulfill the lifelong dreams of children with terminal illnesses. This year's tournament will also benefit other non-profit organizations through its corporate responsibility platform, Hyatt Thrive (for more information on Hyatt Thrive visit thrive.hyatt.com).

"In addition to contributing to this remarkable cause, this year's Golf Classic promises the enthusiasm and class that previous Hyatt Golf tournaments have embodied, plus a player-friendly format that golf enthusiasts will surely enjoy," Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa said.

Hyatt Regency Saipan is inviting teams, sponsors and golf enthusiasts to help make this worthwhile cause a success. If you want to make a donation and consider a monetary or in-kind contribution, contact Club at the Hyatt office at 234 1234 extension 26 or send email to cath@hyattsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

A golfer watches the ball rolls toward the cup during a local tournament this year at the Laolao Bay Golfer Resort, which will be the venue for next month's Hyatt golf competition.

Lakers trying new combinations in China

BEIJING (AP)— With an injured Kobe Bryant on the bench, the Los Angeles Lakers will be looking at different player combinations when they play the Golden State Warriors.

''We have guys competing for jobs,'' Lakers coach Mike D'Antoni said at practice Monday. ''They're trying to earn jobs. So it's a hard time for these players but they're doing well.''

The Lakers play two exhibition games against the Warriors: in Beijing on Tuesday and in Shanghai on Friday.

Although he made the trip to China, Bryant is expected to be out for much of the season with a torn Achilles tendon and an ailing right knee.

The China trip is part of the NBA's Global Games, an effort to promote the league's global brand. The league played its first international game when Washington visited Maccabi Tel Aviv in Israel in 1978. By the end of this season, the NBA will have played nearly 150 of them, including 18 during the regular season.

Pau Gasol said the Lakers have enough on offense to make up for Bryant's absence.

''It's just a matter of having everybody else healthy so we have as many guys as possible to be able to make up for Kobe's absence,'' he said.

Golden State guard Stephen Curry knows that with Gasol and Steve Nash the Lakers can pose plenty of trouble.

''They don't have Kobe and probably won't for a little bit, but they've still got a lot of talent,'' Curry said.

Bryant is one of the most popular NBA players in China and was the focus of media attention at Monday's practice. Amid questions about his teammates and his latest signature shoe design, he looked back to last season when the Lakers struggled with injuries and were swept by San Antonio in the first round of the playoffs.

''I think it was an unfortunate year,'' Bryant said. ''We got so many injuries, decimated with injuries. But ... we're looking forward to getting back out there this year and making up for lost time.''

PADRES

From Page 28

A.J. Lizama home.

In their four-inning silence, the Braves had several chances to score, but could not complete the play. In the second inning, Frankie Lieto made it to third with two outs before Lucio Kalen was grounded out at first. Then in the fourth inning, Kaipat led off for the Padres and also reached third base, but second batter Peter Lieto was beaten to first and the next two flied out.

With the loss, the Braves were forced to play the Dodgers in a make-or-break game yesterday with the winner to challenge the Padres in the finals today, weather permitting.

Dodgers 6, Giants 1

The fourth-ranked Dodgers arranged a showdown with the Padres for the last finals seat after eliminating and stunning the third-seeded Giants in the other playoff match last Monday night.

Joseph Atalig started out for the Dodgers and had a no-hitter in three innings pitch. He struck out two of the 10 batters he faced and walked only one. Brian Camacho came in for Atalig in the fourth inning and though he gave up one hit, he kept the Giants in check, allowing only one run and striking out three. Nathan Camacho closed out for the Dodgers, struck out three of the four batters he went against, and held the Giants scoreless in the last two innings.

The Giants only light up the board in the fifth inning with Franklin Lieto's single bringing home Larry Sebaklim. The Dodgers scored in the second, third, fourth, and seventh inning. The first two runs came off an error at second base and a stolen base, while Jonathan Camacho gave the Dodgers their third run off an RBI single. Two of the Dodgers' last three runs were made off the Giants defensive miscues, while the other one was courtesy off Brian Camacho's sacrifice fly.

MP UNITED

From Page 28

and each pool will play in a round-robin format with the Top 2 teams in each bracket advancing to the playoffs.

"All teams will play at least 4 games and as many as 6 games," Del Rosario said, adding that scouts will be watching the tournament.

"Collegiate and UFL (United Football League, Philippines) team scouts will be watching the games. Our boys will get a chance to land college scholarships or UFL contract should they perform well and impress these people. I've already received a few inquiries on the boys and I'm stoked for them. This trip will also give an opportunity for our non-US players to experience playing in an international tournament," the Typhoons coach said.

Besides the boys U18 squad, six female players of the MP United FC will also participate in the same tournament. The list includes Michelle and Rachelle Masga, Amy Taylor, Jayda Mendoza, Karleen Reyes, and Seoung Hyun Lee and they will suit up for Chelsea FC Philippines, which is a team under the Younghusband Football Academy of PH players and siblings Phil and James Younghusband.

Meanwhile, MP United FC has been holding fundraising activities for their players participation in the Pilipinas Cup and the club would like to thank the following for their support: IT&E, The Athlete's Foot, All Star Sporting Goods, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, McDonalds, Saipan Ice & Water Co, and Rep. Ramon Tebuteb.

BLUE HAUS

From Page 28

mained in second place behind the league-leading Degree/UPAA (3-0), while Armatech dropped to a tie for fourth and fifth place with Shakir Realty (1-2). Laguna (1-1) and Pacific Islands Club (0-3) complete the Masters field.

The Blue Haus-Armatech tiff was still a close match at the end of the first period and early in the second before the former stepped on the gas in the closing minutes of the opening half and maintained its momentum in the second half to walk away with the double-digit winning margin.

Armatech was only down by three after the first 10 minutes of play, 18-21, and even managed to move within two, 30-32, after falling behind by as much as 10 points in the second canto, 18-28, as Yosh Gabaldon began to hit his shots from downtown. Gabaldon, Martin Moreno, and Bruce Berline kept Armatech afloat in the majority of the first half.

However, Gabaldon and Moreno returned to the bench past the halfway mark of the second frame and Armatech was left with limited offensive options as it relied heavily on Berline inside. Blue Haus clamped down on defense against Berline, using two and even three players to neutralize the Armatech center. On offense, Blue house leaned on their speed and outside shooting to turn a shaky 2-point lead to 49-38 advantage at halftime.

Armatech never recovered from thereon, as it could not found the right combination to counter Blue Haus' balance offense. Martin, who finished the half with 9 points, failed to get his rhythm back, as he came off the bench in the third and was limited to one field goal in the entire second half, while Gabaldon was held to one triple each in the last two quarters. Other Armatech players did not step up either, leaving Berline to bruise his way into hard earned points just to keep his team in the game.

In contrast, Blue Haus found enough contributions (29 points) from its second stringers, including Edgar Pangelinan and Junar Guiab, who had 11 and 10 markers, respectively. Edsel Mendoza, who started out for the squad, but was scoreless in the first half showed up in the second with 12 points, while Francis Rebuyon led Blue Haus with his 14.

Blue Haus 83 – Rebuyon 14, Mendoza 12, Pangelinan 11, Guiab 10, Santos 6, G. Palacios 6, Diaz 5, J. Fernandez 4, Manabat 2, F. Palacios 2.

Armatech 73 – Berline 20, Gabaldon 18, Moreno 12, Montano 10, Poquiz 4, Ebuen 3, Canedo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-18, 49-38, 64-53, 83-73.

First Leg of NMA Cross Country Series

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Runners head out to the course during the first leg of the Northern Marianas Athletics' Cross Country Series last Saturday at the Airport Road.

A female runner is way ahead of her competitors.

Runners pose for a photo after the event.

Runners warm up for the race.

Elementary school students near completion of the race.

Four Marianas High School female runners keep up with a male runner.

A barefoot runner heads to the finish line.

Runners negotiate the first of the two-lap course.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Padres secure first finals berth

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Padres marched into the finals of the 2nd Annual DYS/Triple A Youth Baseball League after dominating the Braves, 13-2, at the start of the playoff round last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Padres and the Braves dueled for the first finals ticket after finishing in the Top 2 in the double-round robin regular season. Their semis game was also the first match played in the league for more than a week, as continues rain suspended playoff action in the youth competition. When the league resumed, the Braves showed some rust, while the Padres came out more prepared and cruised to victory.

Mike Muna, Kainoa Wanket, and Jun Rabauliman pitched for the Padres and allowed only four hits and one earned run. Rabauliman also contributed on offense with his two RBIs although he was only 1-for-4 at bat, while Khobby Kaipat also got two RBIs and went 2-for-3 at the plate. Muna, a late addition to the Padres, was only 1-for-2 at bat, but made a double and scored three runs. Also collecting two RBIs for the Padres was Jared Sablan, while three others added one RBI each.

Sablan recorded his two RBIs at the bottom of the second where the Padres began taking control of the game, leading at 5-1. The Padres got two more RBIs in this inning off Lancaster Secharmidal and John Camacho's base hits and one off a Braves' error.

The Braves were the first ones to hit the board with A.J Evangelista scoring at the top of the first off a passed ball from Muna. However, the Braves went cold in the next four innings before they ended the drought at the top of the sixth off Kody Kaipat's sacrifice fly that drove

See PADRES on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Padres pitcher in action during their first round game against the Braves in the Triple A league at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. The Padres defeated the Braves, 13-2, in the playoffs last Monday night to advance to the finals.

MP United U18 to join Pilipinas Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Club's boys U18 team will test its mettle against well-established youth teams in the Philippines when it competes in the 2013 Pilipinas Cup International Invitation Youth Tournament later this month in Sta. Rosa.

The Typhoons are one of the select teams invited to the Manila Soccer Academy-organized and Philippine Football Federation-sanctioned tournament that will run from Oct. 28 to 31 at the Nuvali-Evoliving Field in Laguna, south of Manila. They will be battling the Pilipinas Cup against Ateneo de Manila HS Team, Bataan Elite FC, La Salle Greenhills , Loyola Meralco Sparks FC, Manila Jeepney FC, Sta. Rosa, and Team Socerroo.

MP United coach Norman del Rosario said that as of last Monday these eight teams have been accepted to the tournament, while organizers are still evaluating the other squads that have expressed interest in joining the event due to the limited slots.

"MP United FC got invited through football friends in the Philippines. The program head, Monty Roxas has a son and nephew in the Philippine Teen Azkals U19 NT Pool, which Enrico del Rosario of MP United FC U18 is also a part of. So when I heard about the Pilipinas Cup I discussed with them the possibility of bringing MP United FC in the Cup," the MP United FC coach added.

Enrico del Rosario is also one of the 16 players who will suit up for the MP United FC when the club plays in the Pilipinas Cup. Joining him are Chris Aninzo , Greg Sablan, Kennedy Izuka, John Taisacan, John Diego Masga, Bob Kim, Scott Kim, Thanyakorn Konkoed, Jehn Joyner , Chris Park , Angelo Jones , Namki Kim, Tanapon Unsa , Daniel Lim , and Sungbae Park. The team is practicing four times a week to prepare for the tournament.

"We sometimes add another day of practice. We also work on the conditioning and physical attributes of the players as we will be playing twice a day in this tournament," del Rosairo said.

The schedule of the tournament has yet to be released, but participating teams will be divided into two groups

See MP UNITED on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Players of the MP United U18 Team pose for a photo before playing in the NMIFA fall league last month at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Blue Haus bags second straight win

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Blue Haus' Edgar Pangelinan is doubled team by Armatech's Yosh Gabaldon, left, and Martin Moreno during the third quarter of their game in the Masters division of the UFO caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Blue Haus clinched its second win in as many games in the 2013 UFO-Budweiser Masters Division Basketball League after outclassing defending champion Armatech/MDX, 83-73, last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

With the victory, Blue Haus re-

See BLUE HAUS on Page 26